IPI: Public perception not basis for disclosing confidential info. PAGE 2
2 juveniles arrested for alleged theft of rental vehicle. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 166

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY AUGUST 22, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, rightmost, signs into law House Bill 21-13, which made necessary amendments to the current law on the legalization of cannabis in the CNMI, as lawmakers look on at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

ERWIN ENCINARES

'Expect draft cannabis regulations in 30 days'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

So can you legally smoke pot in the CNMI now? Not just yet.

Be patient, though, advised Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday. He expects the CNMI Cannabis Commission to come up with the draft regulations governing the use of marijuana in the CNMI within a month.

This comes soon after Torres signed yesterday afternoon a bill that amended the cannabis legalization bill, House Bill 21-13, also called the companion bill of Public Law 20-66, the original law that legalized cannabis use in the CNMI.

After enacting H.B. 21-13 yesterday, Torres said he is

See EXPECT on Page 4

Budget talks seek to skip conference panel

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiscal year 2020 budget talks are headed toward the unprecedented goal of skipping the conference committee to shoot the annual expenditure bill toward the Governor's Office as quickly as possible.

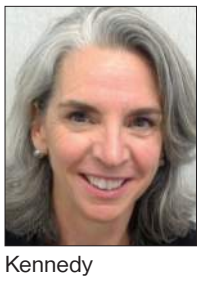
In a bid to meet that goal, the Senate broke off from their session yesterday for five-

See BUDGET on Page 4

Deposition walkout costs Lujan over $20K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Walking out of his deposition in Guam has cost lawyer David J. Lujan over $20,000.



Kennedy

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy ordered Lujan on Monday to pay $20,921 in costs and fees to his former client, Junior Larry Hillbroom.

Had Lujan not walked out of his deposition, Hillbroom would have been able to complete the deposition and paid the corresponding costs to do so, Kennedy said.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court. Lujan's deposition was held in connection with Hillbroom's lawsuit against him and Barry J. Israel.

Kennedy said Lujan's wrongful termination of the

See LUJAN on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Xerox took guests on a digital survey of all its latest products at its office in Garapan.
PAGE 13

ASIA
The National Museum of Afghanistan is working to restore the art shattered by the Taliban.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Keanu Reeves and Lana Wachowski are returning to the world of "The Matrix."
PAGE 21

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

IPI: Public perception not basis for disclosing confidential info

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public perception notwithstanding, it is not a basis to publicly disclose Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's confidential income tax information, according to IPI.

In fact, according to IPI counsel Viola Alepuyo and Philip J. Tydingco, the stay and injunction issued by a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit against the Commonwealth Casino Commission "serves to relieve that public perception to the extent it exists."

In IPI's reply memorandum supporting its emergency motion filed before the Ninth Circuit, Alepuyo and Tydingco noted that CCC executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero had testified that CCC wants to publicly disclose IPI's confidential income tax information in order to project a public image that CCC is not "in bed" with IPI.

The lawyers said Deleon Guerrero's testimony was in the audio recordings of the preliminary injunction proceedings in the Superior Court.

IPI submitted the audio recordings to the U.S. District Court for the NMI, which later heard IPI's lawsuit.

Alepuyo and Tydingco said the record reveals that CCC did not present any evidence concerning how redacting IPI's confidential income tax information in IPI's financial statements harms CCC or the public interest.

The lawyers said CCC cannot show how a stay and injunctive relief harms it or the public interest as, at worst, the stay and injunctive relief only delays CCC's ability to publicly disclose IPI's confidential income tax information.

"CCC has now shown how such a delay prejudices it or the public interest," the lawyers said.

Alepuyo and Tydingco said IPI has met its burden of showing that the Ninth Circuit should stay U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling on the preliminary injunction motion and stop CCC from disclosing IPI's confidential income tax information that are contained in its financial statements.

They said a stay and injunction pending appeal are appropriate, describing Manglona's ruling on the merits as "the product of erroneous legal premises, clearly erroneous factual findings, as well as an abuse of discretion."

Alepuyo and Tydingco said CCC and Manglona both relied on Public Law 19-24 as the basis for concluding that IPI lacks confidential and/or privacy rights in its income tax information.

"This reasoning fails to survive scrutiny," they said.

They said Public Law 19-24 Section 10 amends a section of the Commonwealth Gaming Act by enumerating a list of certain information that are not confidential and may be disclosed by CCC.

The lawyers said the exemption applies only to a narrow portion of IPI's business gross receipts tax.

Alepuyo and Tydingco said income tax information is not included within or mentioned by P.L. 19-24.

Thus, they said, P.L. 19-24 does not authorize public disclosure of any income tax information and neither CCC nor the District Court articulate or clearly analyze how P.L. 19-24 exempts IPI's income tax information from the Commonwealth's tax privacy law.

They said the Commonwealth tax statute constitutes specific legislation concerning tax matters whereas P.L. 19-24, which concerns gaming, is a general statute with respect to tax matters.

On the irreparable harm issue, Alepuyo and Tydingco pointed out that the injunctive relief that IPI seeks is not meant to preclude the public disclosure of its financial statements but to preclude disclosing its income tax information contained in the financial statements.

The lawyers also cited the testimony of Shen Yan, president of Global Capital Market, which is a division of IPI's parent company, that releasing the confidential information would make it harder to raise capital in foreign markets. They said this testimony was not contradicted or controverted by any evidence.

Manglona had deemed that testimony insufficient to establish the probability of irreparable harm. Alepuyo and Tydingco said that disregarding or negating Yan's uncontroverted testimony in such a specialized area and determining that IPI will not suffer irreparable harm "constitutes an erroneous factual finding as well as an abuse of discretion."

Last Aug. 8, the Ninth Circuit temporarily prohibited CCC from disclosing IPI's confidential income tax information that is subject of a legal dispute.

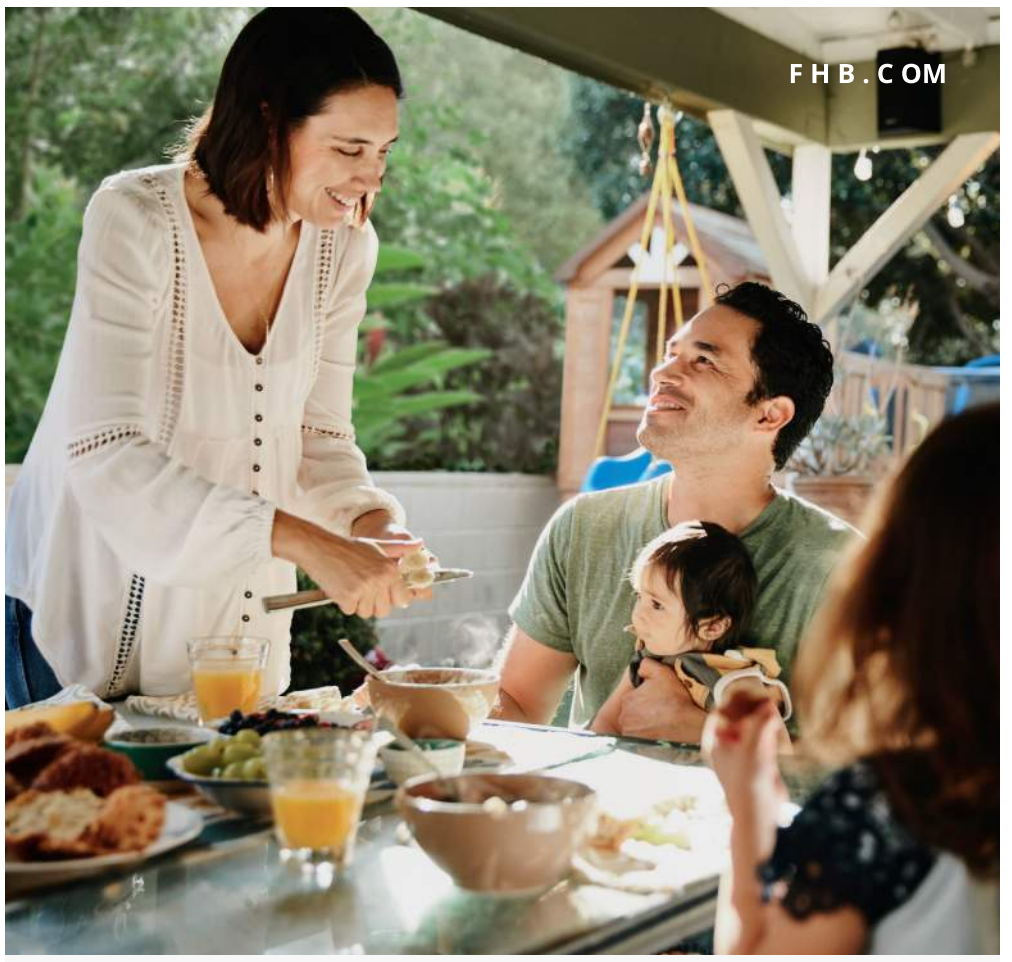
Ninth Circuit Judges A. Wallace Tashima and Milan D. Smith Jr. temporarily stayed or suspended the order of Manglona that denied the petition of IPI and its two subsidiaries for a preliminary injunction.

The Ninth Circuit issued the order after IPI filed an emergency motion requesting the appellate court to stay Manglona's order while its appeal is pending.

The Ninth Circuit judges ordered that CCC is temporarily enjoined from disclosing the confidential income tax information that is the subject of dispute between IPI and CCC, pending resolution of the emergency motion.

Last Aug 6, Manglona ruled that IPI and its subsidiaries—Grand Marianas (CNMI) LLC and Imperial Pacific Properties LLC—have not met their burden for a preliminary injunction.

IPI and its subsidiaries have asked the federal court to prevent the disclosure of unredacted financial statements because, in their view, those statements contain confidential information protected from disclosure by provisions in the CNMI tax code and the Open Government Act, and by guarantees of privacy in the U.S. and Commonwealth constitutions.



Deck out the backyard

PERSONAL FIRSTLINE LOCK

6.99% APR* For 1 year | 10.14% APR* Current variable rate as of 6/24/19

To apply, see any Customer Service Representative or visit fhb.com.

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559

Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

* The introductory 6.99% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is fixed for one year from account opening. After the introductory period, the APR may vary and will be adjusted monthly to 4.50 percentage points over an index, which is the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate, except that the APR will never be higher than 18.00%. The current variable APR is 10.14% as of 6/24/19. The APR will be 0.25 or 0.35 percentage point lower if you have a personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 2 or 3, respectively. There is a one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00 and an annual fee of $35.00. Annual fee of $35.00 will be waived as long as you have a personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 3 or Private Banking at the time the fee is assessed. Offer subject to credit approval and good for new approved Personal FirstLine Lock applications received from 6/24/19 to 8/31/19 and cannot be combined with other promotions or special rates. This offer does not apply to Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances of existing First Hawaiian Bank personal loans or lines-of-credit do not qualify for the offer.

RODNEY S. CABARLES Chairman | JOSEPH T. SAN NICOLAS Vice Chairman | PORSHA H. PALACIOS Secretary | JONITA SN. PAULINO Treasurer | BOARD MEMBER Vacant

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes July 05, 2019

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
- **A.** Annual Report
- **B.** Review & Approval of Fall 2019 Applicants

IV. MISCELLANEOUS
V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/ Joseph T. San Nicolas
Acting Chairman

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

HOPE Recovery Center resumes operations

The Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program's Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti Recovery Center reopened yesterday, Aug. 21, now that major electrical issues within the facility have been resolved.

According to Esther Milne-Camacho, acting special assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation, personnel have been transferring back to Marpi from the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility.

Milne-Camacho notes that participants currently housed in Group Home have returned to the facility and inpatient services have resumed operations.

However, only three buildings have been energized and deemed safe for occupancy, which has limited bed space to accommodate new inpatient services. The three buildings that have returned to normal operations are for male clients, female clients, and the main office.

For more information, contact 323-7277. ***(PR)***

Census Office to hold job fairs

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2020 CNMI Census Office will be doing a series of job fairs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in order to hire office staff and enumerators who will go to the villages to conduct the census.

According to Census Office manager Clyde Norita, the office is tasked to hire office staff by October. Public outreach is slated to begin by January 2020, with field enumeration to begin by February and completion to be no later than June 30, 2020. Norita said that February will serve as a preliminary enumeration to work on population numbers.

The Census Office will also be offering 625 positions, with different responsibilities and positions. The jobs offered will either be for the office or field.

The CNMI Census Office will be holding a Census Job Fair on Saipan on Oct. 11, 12, and 19, from 9am to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. There will be job fairs on Tinian and Rota on Sep. 27 and Oct. 4, respectively.

The hiring criteria:

- Must be a U.S. citizen and/or U.S. national (legal resident of theCNMI) and be 18 years old or older.
- Possess a valid social security number.
- Possess a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (office staff only).
- May not be an elected official.
- Male applicants born after Dec. 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service System.
- Meet the requirements set in the local laws of CNMI.
- Pass a Federal Bureau of Investigations background check facilitated by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Pass a personal interview using guidelines provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Pass a written assessment exam provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The hiring process will require applicants to pick and fill necessary forms, bring required documents and identification cards, notary public on site for federal forms, fingerprinting on sites, pass FBI background checks, and to get a 70% or above on the U.S. Census online training/test.

The census is a survey conducted every 10 years to indicate a local population and this is important as it provides a statistic for population strength, which leads to a determination on federal funding for the CNMI and other mainland states in the U.S. The 2020 Census will be conducted until Jan. 31, 2021.

Norita expects field enumeration to be completed no later than June 30, 2020, and data to be sent to Washington D.C. on July 30, 2020. The CNMI Census Office will close on Sep. 30, 2020.

Customers First
TRIPLE J
Hot Deals on Used Cars
2018 MAZDA CX-5
TOURING • 11,500 MILES
STOCK #8R200
ALL CARS PRICED BELOW
CARS AS LOW AS $117 PER PAYCHECK
SUVs AS LOW AS $156 PER PAYCHECK
SALE PRICE $22,995 PER PAYCHECK $193
• Fuel-efficient, 4-cyl. Engine • Automatic Transmission • Push-button Start • 17" Aluminum Alloy Wheels
• Smart City Brake Support • Rear Cross Traffic Alert • Rearview Camera • Blind-spot Monitoring System
• Mazda CONNECT Infotainment System w/ 7" Touchscreen Display & Voice Command
Shae Stovell
234-7133 ext.23
sstovell@triplejsaipan.com
ALL PRE-OWNED VEHICLES COME WITH 3 MONTH / 3,000 MILE WARRANTY
2014 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE • 4HS580 • 32,000 MILES SALE PRICE $11,995
2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA 6HS682 • 26,627 MILES SALE PRICE $13,995
2016 MAZDA MAZDA 3 SPORT HATCHBACK • 6HS713 • 29,811 MILES SALE PRICE $15,995
2016 MAZDA MAZDA 3 SPORT PLUS • 6HS714 • 27,449 MILES SALE PRICE $15,995
2016 MAZDA MAZDA 3 SPORT HATCHBACK • 6HS693 • 35,257 MILES SALE PRICE $15,995
2017 MITSUBISHI LANCER 9M070-A • 34,442 MILES SALE PRICE $15,995
2016 MAZDA MAZDA 3 HATCHBACK • 6HS695 • 35,897 MILES SALE PRICE $15,995
2017 HYUNDAI ELANTRA 7R207 • 22,359 MILES SALE PRICE $17,995
2017 MAZDA MAZDA 3 HATCHBACK TOURING • 7P271 • 15,448 MILES SALE PRICE $17,995
2016 KIA SEDONA 6HS718 • 36,060 MILES SALE PRICE $17,995
SOLD
2016 MAZDA MAZDA CX-5 TOURING • 6P270 • 15,303 MILES SALE PRICE $17,995
2014 FORD EXPLORER 2WD • 4HS709 • 33,086 MILES SALE PRICE $18,995
2015 FORD TRANSIT LOW ROOF XLT • 5HS656 • 46,253 MILES SALE PRICE $21,995
2016 FORD TRANSIT LOW ROOF XLT • 6HS762 • 45,059 MILES SALE PRICE $24,995
2016 FORD TRANSIT HIGH ROOF • 6HS743 • 50,000 MILES SALE PRICE $34,995
TO LEARN MORE VISIT: WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau OPEN Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm Tel: 234-7133/234-3051 autosales@triplejsaipan.com WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
*On Approved Credit (OAC). Some Conditions Apply. Doc Fees and Registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details.
Maximum Credit Card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500. While supplies last. All Monthly Payments are based on a 20% down payment and 26 pay periods per year.

Gearing up for a plastic-free Marianas

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In 2018, the International Coastal Cleanup in the CNMI drew over 1,500 volunteers, collecting a total of 9,180 lbs of trash from over 50 sites.

Based on previous International Coastal Cleanups, it has been observed that the marine debris collected on the west side of Saipan—the Saipan Lagoon—are mostly land-based pollutants. That means the garbage collected comes from inland and most of it plastic.

"It's almost tradition to use disposable plastics for parties. It's the biggest thing," said Colleen C. Flores of the Division of Coastal Resources Management and coordinator of the 2019 International Coastal Cleanup ICC.

"A lot of people like to have barbecues and gatherings by the beach, but everything that's being brought are disposable plastics, so reducing the use, and choosing to reuse is the best way to lessen plastic," Flores added.

With the ICC coming up in September, DCRM hopes the occasion will encourage the community to lessen the individual consumption of single-use plastic.

Businesses are also encouraged to adopt more sustainable practices through the Garapan Clean Water Campaign. Centralized in the Garapan area, the campaign works with businesses in that area to sign up to be a reef-friendly business or property.

Businesses are asked to pledge to follow two or three sustainable actions at a time, like serving straws only upon request or using paper or bamboo straws.

Janice Anne Castro, Coastal Resource Management director, hopes that the CNMI business community will make that transition to be plastic-free.

"We know that it's a little bit [costlier], but then it's also being aware that our land can only accommodate so much trash right now. If it doesn't end up in the landfill, they would end up in the nearest body of water, which to us is really close," Castro added.

For those interested in joining the International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 21, sign up at dcrm.gov.mp or contact Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp.

SHEFA updating applicants of status of applications

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board member says that SHEFA is doing a good job with its application process. Board member Juan Tenorio said the SHEFA office has been keeping its applicants aware of what is needed to expedite the application process.

"We've been notifying students a lot better and now they understand what they need to turn in…in order to get approved," he said.

The number of SHEFA's fall applicants has reached 1,140 as of July 31.

SHEFA board administrative assistant Doreen Masga reported to the SHEFA board that, as of July 31, a total of 249 applicants have been approved, 18 were denied, and 873 are pending. Masga also indicated that there are 372 new applicants, 675 ongoing applicants, and 93 returning.

She said the number of pending applications is high because the SHEFA office is still waiting for supporting documents.

Out of the 1,140 applicants, 505 are college freshman, 238 are college sophomores, 214 are college juniors, 79 are college seniors, 83 are attending graduate school for master's degrees, and 21 are continuing for an advanced/doctorate/juris doctorate degree.

Masga also clarified that SHEFA has a total of 51 applicants enrolling in certification programs, 421 enrolling in associate degree programs, 564 for bachelor degree programs, 83 for master's degree programs, and 21 in doctorate programs.

A total of 684 applicants will be studying on Saipan, while 353 are enrolled off-island and 103 are enrolled online.

A total of 49 applicants are currently enrolled at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

The deadline for supporting documents is on Sept. 30.

The award distribution for fall 2019 consists of $280,500 for grant-in aid, $89,000 for priority field of study, and $156,500 for merit incentive awards.

SHEFA is funded through Saipan's annual poker licensing fee collections.

BUDGET

From Page 1

hour recess to discuss with members of the House of Representatives House Bill 21-64, which is still listed in the Senate's bill calendar as the House version of the budget.

H.B. 21-64 was reported out of the Fiscal Affairs Committee last Wednesday with no amendments.

Committee chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the goal is to skip the conference committee and come up with an end product more quickly.

"What we are trying to attempt here is to work with the House members, to have them accept the Senate product so that we can avert the need for a conference committee or a need for them rejecting our version and [forming] a conference committee," he said.

Hofschneider

A conference committee is an ad-hoc panel created to resolve disagreements on a specific bill. The heads of the Senate and the House of Representatives appoint the committee's members.

All annual budget bills since fiscal year 2012 have been products of conference committees. Before that, the government was allowed to go into continuing resolutions, which means adopting the previous year's budget ceiling.

"We actually tried to do this [before but it didn't push through]. We are actually very optimistic and confident that things are…going to happen," Hofschneider said.

"I am very, very confident that [we will come up with a final budget for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' review before the deadline]," he told *Saipan Tribune*. The deadline for the fiscal year 2020 budget is Sept. 30, 2019. Failure to enact a fiscal year 2020 budget would result in the shutdown of the government until the governor enacts a budget bill.

The Senate convened yesterday for a session at 11am in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill, but went into recess at around 11:30am to go into discussions on H.B. 21-64. It wasn't until around 4:30pm when the Senate got out of recess, only to go into another recess to reconvene discussions today, at 9am.

LUJAN

From Page 1

Guam deposition made the second deposition on Saipan necessary.

She ordered Lujan to pay all costs related to the deposition on Saipan, but not those from the two lost days in Guam.

Hillbroom was awarded $16,182.50 in attorneys' fees, $84 in transcript fee, and $4,654.54 for costs associated with the second deposition on Saipan, for a total of $20,921.04.

According to court records, Lujan walked out on May 14, 2019, on the second day of his scheduled three-day deposition in Guam. That same day, Hillbroom asked the court to sanction Lujan and compel him to resume his deposition. The court granted the motion to compel at a May 24 hearing and rescheduled the remaining two days of Lujan's deposition at the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Saipan.

The court also granted Hillbroom's motion for attorneys' fees and costs for the filing of the motion to compel and ordered Hillbroom to submit a more detailed accounting of deposition costs for sanctions.

Hillbroom sought an award of $22,646 for attorneys' fees and costs.

The calculation includes $16,182 in attorneys' fees, $1,809 in costs associated with the cancellation of two days of the Guam deposition, and $4,654 in costs for the Saipan deposition.

Lujan did not oppose.

In her order Monday, Kennedy found that the attorneys' fees represent reasonable costs for filing the motion to compel as does the cost of obtaining the May 14 transcript needed for that motion.

However, Kennedy said, at the motion hearing, she told Hillbroom's counsel that she would not grant costs for the lost deposition days in Guam and the costs for the make-up days on Saipan because this would result in unjust enrichment for Hillbroom.

Hillbroom filed the motion to compel Lujan to resume his deposition on Saipan as Lujan allegedly displayed obstructive conduct and improperly left during the deposition in Guam. Hillbroom had also asked the court to sanction Lujan.

Hillbroom is suing Lujan and Israel for allegedly conspiring with former trustee Keith Waibel to inflate their contingency fee when the fortune of the late DHL cofounder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in the Superior Court. Lujan and Israel have denied the allegations.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. His body was never recovered.

EXPECT

From Page 1

confident in seeing the draft cannabis regulations within a month.

H.B. 21-13, now known as P.L. 21-5, starts the timer for the legalization of cannabis use in the CNMI by identifying a salary scale for key staff of the cannabis commission, among other changes in the law.

"If your question is: Can you smoke today? My suggestion is, be patient. We've already gone this far to making sure we do this right, so be patient [and] give the opportunity for the [cannabis] commission to try to set rules and regulations, promulgate it, and then we go from there," the governor said.

According to current law, the cannabis commission is given 180 days to come up with rules for the use of cannabis in the CNMI, as well as regulations that will govern the cannabis industry.

Igisomar

The governor further noted that only when the five cannabis commissioners are sworn into office and officially convened is when the 180-day clock starts ticking.

"…This bill addressed [my previous concerns]," Torres said in an interview. "I ask that the community be patient and allow the [cannabis] commission to promulgate the rules and regulations [for cannabis use] before you can go out and exercise that right."

As of publication, Torres confirmed that there remains one vacancy in the five-person cannabis commission, which consists of Saipan representatives Matt Deleon Guerrero, Nadine Deleon Guerrero, and Valentino Taisacan. Torres did not mention who the Rota representative is for the cannabis commission.

"…I just spoke with the [Tinian] leadership today, and they will be appointing [a representative] and then we will be moving forward for [an appointment] hearing. Hopefully, we can get a full commission in a few weeks," he said.

Torres further noted that he previously spoke with the commissioners individually and, according to the governor, they are aware of the serious task at hand.

"…I am sure they are doing their research already, even before being sworn in. I am confident that, once the committee [meets]…and has a quorum, they [will] select a chairman and so forth. I am confident that in 30 days we will have something—at least a draft—that the Office of the Attorney General can look into and go from there," he said.

One of the original catalysts in the discussion about the legalization of cannabis use in the CNMI, Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), who was present in yesterday's enactment, reminded the public to use the product responsibly.

"…Please be very responsible. …Just as the Legislature has put this forth for the people, I believe we can easily remove it if it becomes a problem, so please protect your rights, protect your accessibility, protect your usage, so that we can be a responsible CNMI," he said.

Igisomar introduced in the 20th Legislature Senate Bill 20-62, the bill that started the discussion on the legalization of cannabis in the CNMI. It was, however, defeated because legislators then believed it was an appropriation bill.

H.B. 21-13 was introduced by Rep. John Paul Sablan's (R-Saipan).

2 juveniles arrested for alleged theft of rental vehicle

Two juveniles have been arrested by police after being identified by surveillance footage as the alleged suspects in a theft of a vehicle at the BW Car Rental in Garapan last July 27, 2019.

Officers of the CNMI Department of Public Safety that responded to case viewed the surveillance footage of the area and noticed two unknown individuals, who were later found to be juveniles.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed the arrest warrant for the two juvenile suspects on Aug. 20, 2019, at approximately 2:50pm, and set the bail at $10,000 each.

That same day, at about 4:10pm, the first juvenile was located, served with the warrant, and arrested. At approximately 4:16pm, the second juvenile was located, served with the warrant, and arrested. Both juvenile suspects were brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for clearance before being transported to the Department of Corrections Juvenile Detention Center.

Both juvenile suspects are facing charges of theft, burglary, criminal mischief, and theft of vehicle. ***(PR)***

NMPASI's help sought to bring accessible van to Rota

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. has been asked to help with getting a van that would be used to transport persons with disability and the elderly on Rota.

In a letter dated Aug. 18, 2019, Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) wrote NMPASI board chair Charles Rivera to ask for financial assistance to bring a Call-A-Ride van from Saipan to Rota.

Although the van is still pending approval at the Governor's Office, Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that she sent the letter in order to help expedite the new service on Rota.

"It has come to my attention that there are plans within the central government to provide the island of Rota with one Call-A-Ride van. I am pleased to welcome this asset to our island," she wrote Rivera, adding that the vehicle could comfortably seat eight passengers, which altogether increases access to transportation and services to the residents of the southernmost island of the NMI.

The catch, according to Santos, is that the Rota Legislative Delegation must cover the shipping cost of the vehicle from Saipan to Rota, which she told *Saipan Tribune* would cost between $2,700 and $3,000.

"With the CNMI government's current financial challenges, I am afraid that Rota cannot shoulder the cost of shipping on its own. To that end, I am respectfully requesting the NMPASI board of directors' assistance in covering the cost of shipping [one van]," she added in her letter to Rivera.

Rivera confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* the receipt of the letter. However, he said that funding is tight for the non-profit, federally funded organization since the purpose of how its budget is used is restricted.

"We are currently still reviewing the details with the board members and our staff on how to help," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Rota delegation is currently in debt and has received word from Finance Secretary David Atalig that they owe the central government a little over half a million.

Santos noted in a previous interview that the delegation was told to temporarily halt passing appropriation bills until they settle their balance with the central government.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FEMA VALOR to kick off on Tinian this Saturday

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2019 at 9am, the Tinian Mayor's Office (together with the Second Senatorial District) is teaming up with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's VALOR Program and Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, or C.A.R.E., to perform some roofing repairs on homes that have been approved by the FEMA VALOR program guidance.

Volunteers are needed to help homeowners rebuild their roof so that their homes are safe places to reside. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring tools such as a tape measure, hammer, handsaw, screwdrivers (Phillips and flathead), drill, and others that are beneficial to the project. The FEMA Valor program will be providing some tools required to the project site.

Anyone interested in the volunteer opportunity should call 433-1800/1802 for Vanessa Manglona or email vanessamanglona.mot@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Auditions for the FOA production

The Friends of the Arts is scheduling its production of *The Jungle Book* for Oct. 18-19 and 25-26. All persons interested in being a part of this popular Broadway play are invited to an audition being held this Friday, Aug. 30, from 5:30pm to 8pm at the HR Support CNMI office on the second floor or the JET Realty Building, right above J's Restaurant in Gualo Rai. The play has many parts, including adult and young people's roles.

No preparation for the audition is necessary. Readings will be from the script. We are looking for a cast of 20 and a backstage crew. If you are interested in either performing in the play or assisting as part of the stage crew come to the audition. Whether an experienced or aspiring actor or actress, come and audition for a role. This is not a musical.

If you would like to be involved but cannot make this audition text/call Susan 287-2225. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power interruption this Friday, Aug. 23, from 9am to 11am, which will affect the Northern Marianas College, Joeten Dandan Supermarket, San Vicente Elementary School, Finasisu Lane, Chalan Tun Antonio Apa, Rasimu Lane, Rte. 307 (CMS Quarry), Tanduki Drive, Katupat Drive, Fatiguan Lane, Bentana Drive, Katbon Road, and Laulau Bay Drive.

Water services may be affected based on tank levels for the areas of Lower San Vicente, South San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead and Obyan. The W-8 wastewater lift station will be affected.

Traffic lights to be affected include the NMC traffic light, Shell Dandan gas station traffic light, Airport Road traffic light, and San Vicente traffic light.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Estate's administratrix is removed for failing to act for 13 years

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho removed Tuesday the administratrix of the estate of her deceased father for not taking action for 13 years to distribute the estate's assets and close the probate.

Camacho found that Arcelia Kileleman Cody's decision to not distribute the estate's assets "unless the heirs pay in order to inherit" conflicts with her fiduciary duty as administratrix of the estate of Guillermo R. Kileleman.

The judge appointed instead Cody's sister, Adorasion Kileleman Hix, as the estate's acting administratrix.

Although there was no testimony presented that Hix is competent to perform the duties as administratrix, Camacho said the court is concerned that, without at least an interim administratrix, the probate action will be further delayed.

Petersburg

The estate's heirs were given 90 days from Tuesday to oppose Hix's appointment.

"If no opposition is filed, this interim appointment shall be[come] permanent without further action by the court," Camacho said.

Camacho found that Cody—as estate administratrix—has failed to satisfy the standards set by the NMI Rules of Probate Procedure and her fiduciary duties toward the estate.

He said Cody had a duty to file an inventory of the estate within 60 days of her appointment as estate administratrix. However, 13 years has passed without Cody filing any inventory.

Therefore, the judge said, Cody is not the best person to administer the estate of Kileleman. He said Cody violated her duty to act with care and diligence toward the estate by failing to file for distribution any estate assets within the 13 years she has been its administratrix.

Camacho said even if some or all of Cody's expenses are determined to be reasonable, she could only be entitled from the estate, not from the individual heirs.

Torres

He pointed out that Cody's insistence that the heirs "pay their fair share" prior to receiving estate assets violates her duty of loyalty toward the estate.

According to court records, Kileleman died on Sept. 1, 1992. In 2004, Cody petitioned the court to administer the estate and she was appointed in 2006. Since then, she has not filed an inventory of the estate and has not moved for partial distribution.

In February 2019, Cody's sister and Kileleman's daughter, Hix, asked the court to substitute her as the estate's administratrix, citing Cody's neglect.

Last June 6, the court held an evidentiary hearing on the petition.

Benjamin K. Petersburg represented Hix, while Joaquin DLG Torres represented Cody.

At the hearing, Cody admitted that she has not filed anything with the court since she was appointed as administratrix in 2006.

The estate's assets consist of real property and a disputed interest in a land. The estate has no cash assets. No creditor has made a claim against the estate.

Cody testified that she spent $25,000 of her personal money on funeral expenses, the construction of an access road on the estate's real property, the surveying of the land, and other expenses involving the estate.

Cody testified that she has not asked the court to distribute the estate property to the heirs because she expects the heirs of Kileleman to "pay their fair share" of her expenses before they can receive their share of the property.

Cody testified that she does not want reimbursement from the estate, but that it should come from the children of Kileleman. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

12 summer interns learn about coral reefs at DCRM

Twelve students finished their internships at the Division of Coastal Resources Management office yesterday with presentations on the projects they worked on during their participation in the Coral Real Initiative Summer Internship Program.

This year, the students were paired with mentors and worked 10 weeks on environmental projects related to beach quality laboratory assessment, the sea turtle program, enforcement, fish and wildlife, user capacity assessment, and shoreline monitoring, among others—all with the aim of exposing the interns to the different aspects of resource management.

Robbie Greene, a coral conservation specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, believes the summer internship program will just keep expanding.

"As long as this remains the most highly rated NOAA capacity building project in the [Pacific] region, it's going to continue to be funded every year," Greene said.

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program has been funding the summer internship program since 2002. The program pairs graduating seniors from high school and incoming college students with different natural resource management agencies on Saipan. The program has been so successful that NOAA has approved a second summer internship program that runs parallel to the coral internship.

Green said the ultimate purpose of the program is to build capacity. "So many of these interns end up coming back, and working in the agencies here, and this is probably our best capacity building program," he said.

Janice Anne Castro, Coastal Resource Management director, is herself a product of the internship program.

"All the work that the interns did really help all of our agencies and organizations. We really hope that this experience is rewarding for the interns, and that you consider coming back after studies and work for us," Castro said, adding that a lot of the mentors were actually interns who now work at CRM as full-time employees, mentoring the next generation of environmental stewards.

One of the interns, 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon T. Sasamoto, worked on a coastal zone communications project, where she developed a PaoPao Beach signage about trash, an international coastal cleanup video, and even created sand-sifters to help study microplastics.

"My plan is to continue to volunteer and use social media to raise environmental awareness and help people in our community understand that there is so much cultural and historical significance beneath our feet, which hopefully would inspire them to respect our land," Sasamoto said.

The Coral Real Initiative Internship Program is organized by the Division of Coastal Resources Management under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and NOAA. ***(Iva Maurin)***

TSLF readies for 2019 Field of Heroes

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the charitable arm of Tan-Holdings, is gearing up for its annual hosting of the "Field of Heroes," which this year marks the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.

The "2019 We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" ceremony, to be held on Sept. 11 at the American Memorial Park at 5:30pm, will be preceded by the Freedom Walk. The walk begins at 5pm at the Garapan Fishing Base and will end at the AMP.

Field of Heroes is characterized mainly by the display of U.S. flags at the AMP. It pays tribute and honors the victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, as well as community heroes, first responders, law enforcement personnel, and military service members, and veterans. U.S. flags will be displayed for public viewing during the event.

For a small donation, receive or have a 3'x5' flag flown to remember our heroes. Donations may be dropped off at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Garapan or Susupe, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation office at the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, the mayor' offices on Tinian and Rota, and at the Hotel Valentino's front desk. Net proceeds from the event will go to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to support programs that help community heroes and their families.

The Field of Heroes ceremony will also be held on Tinian on Sept. 11 at the Veterans Memorial Park at 10am, and on Rota on Sept. 17, at the Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Rota Veterans Memorial Park at 4pm. ***(Iva Maurin)***

How's Your Hearing?

Specializing in:

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices

Wednesday, August 28th 9:00am - 4:00pm
at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

Ross Hearing Aids
All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Most Insurance Accepted

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD CAMACHO ARRIOLA, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0194) ORDER SETTING MOTION HEARING

On August 12, 2019, Executrix filed a Notice of Motion and Motion for Summary Judgment Pursuant to Rule 56. Therefore, the Court sets a **Motion Hearing** on **September 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. before Judge Joseph N. Camacho**.

Opposition, if any, shall be due on or before September 9, 2019. Reply, if any, shall be due on or before September 25, 2019.

The parties will be given a reasonable time to submit (proposed) orders. (Proposed) orders shall be submitted on File &Serve and a copy in Word format shall also be emailed to the courtroom clerk of Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The Hearing currently scheduled on September 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. on the briefs filed by the parties regarding claims shall be vacated and rescheduled to September 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

SO ORDERED this day of August, 2019.

/s/ **JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge**

IT'S ON WITH TACOMA THON

{ALL MONTH LONG}

2019 TOYOTA TACOMA PRE-RUNNER ACCESS CAB
AS LOW AS

$28,995*

- Never Rust Composite Bed
- Multi-information Display
- Touch Screen Monitor
- Heavy Duty Adjustable Tie-Down Cleats
- Rear Backup Camera
- Standard Toyota Safety Sense (Lane Departure Alert with Assist, Automatic High Beams, Pre-Collision System)

EVERY NEW TACOMA GETS A

$300* IP&E GAS CARD

PLUS, RECEIVE A $10* GAS CARD WITH EVERY TACOMA 4x4 TEST-DRIVE.

* On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for more details. Vehicles not exactly as shown.

SINCE 1914

Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950

Call 234-5911
Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm

Let's Go Places

HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.

Browse our online showroom - Visit: www.AKsaipan.com

Dive map mobile app in Korean features Marianas

The Marianas Visitors Authority has released a new dive map mobile app in Korean, the first of its kind in the Marianas' largest source market.

The Marianas Dive Map app is based on The Marianas Dive Map Guidebook developed by the MVA earlier this year. The app introduces popular and hidden dive spots on illustrated maps of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Goat Island. Users can select different locations on the map and read a short description about the dive spot along with a photo or illustration. A button is placed allowing users to easily download the map to their device. The app is downloadable on both iOS and Android devices nd is already available on the Google Play Store, with the App Store to follow shortly.

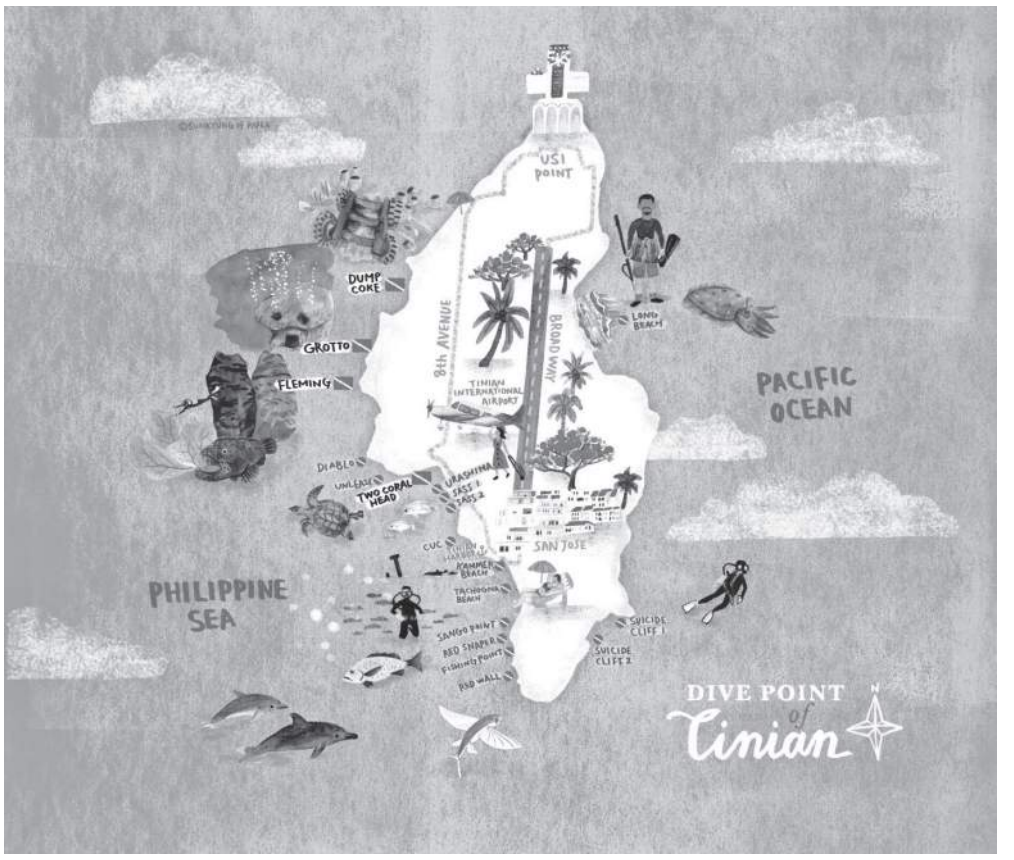
Another major feature of the app is real time information on current weather and tides. Claimed to be one of the most useful resource for actual divers, the function enables divers to find out the best conditions when heading into the waters. Besides such features, the app provides a detailed checklist of what divers must bring with them on their trip to the Marianas including official documents, equipment, and necessities. Users may download printable documents they need to fill out prior to arrival and may also find samples guiding first-time travelers. The app also contains a list of current dive shops located in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with a short description, address, and contact information.

"The primary purpose of this app is to expose the vast underwater world of The Marianas to potential leisure travelers and to position our islands as an ultimate haven for water and leisure sports lovers in Korea," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "The guidebook has received acclaim from general scuba-divers both in Korea and locally."

The initial Korea-language Marianas Dive Map/Guidebook has also been translated to English and Chinese and distributed by the MVA at tradeshows and leisure exhibitions this year, including the 2019 Asia Dive Expo in Singapore, the largest and longest-running dive show in Asia.

Marianas honorary tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee filmed a short introductory clip celebrating the release of the Dive Map app. As a scuba-diving enthusiast himself with more than 2,500 dives on his diving log and as a diving instructor, Lee has been regularly visiting The Marianas to promote leisure sports and has taken photos and videos during his visits to gather footage for various use. In the video, Lee introduces The Marianas as a heaven for scuba-divers and invites viewers who are curious to download the app to find out more about different dive spots.

Using the interview video of Lee as a teaser, the MVA also initiated a social media consumer event on Instagram from June 18 –28 to promote the app to a wider audience. The online event aimed to increase engagement on MVA's Korean social media channels and to entice consumers who have interest in leisure travel, particularly scuba-diving. The event generated nearly 590,000 impressions and over 138,000 video views. ***(MVA)***



MVA

In July 2019, the Marianas Visitors Authority launched the first-ever Korean language dive map to promote the underwater attractions of the Marianas. Korea is the largest visitor source market for the Pacific destination.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282
Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Monday, August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  1. March 18, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
  2. April 24, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
  3. May 24, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
- E. Correspondence

II. Management Reports
- A. Executive Director's Report
- B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
  1. Statement of Net Position as of July 31, 2019
  2. Statement of Cash Flow as of July 31, 2019
  3. 2019 Budget vs. Current Financials
  4. Financial Projections for Remaining Fiscal Year 2019

III. Committee Reports
- A. Personnel Committee Report

IV. Old Business
- A. Telesource Contract
- B. CUC-CPA Omnibus Settlement Agreement

V. New Business
- A. Approval of Board Resolution to Establish Two Separate Bank Accounts As Set forth In the Joint Stipulation
- B. Approval of Capital Projects
  1. EPA-CUC-RFP-19-20 Sludge Dewatering Equipment
  2. Saipan Local Law - CUC-RFP-19-02-13, Rev. 1 Purchase of Primary Screen – Agingan
- C. Board Travel and Per Diem
- D. Net Metering Credit to Water Electric Charge
- E. Public Comments*
- F. Executive Session** (Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters, Contracts, and Board Communications)
- G. Announcements

IX. Adjournment

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-015

TINIAN ROAD REPAIR AND ASPHALT OVERLAY PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Tinian Road Repair and Asphalt Overlay Project, Tinian** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 08, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 23, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room **Tinian Office.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 28, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-015"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time September 9, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 9, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net.** For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 9, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 18, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, September 19, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on September 9, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CASIANO BOSTRE
Acting Secretary of Public Works

EDWIN P. ALDAN
Mayor of Tinian

FRACISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

MCS welcomes a full house of parents

Mount Carmel School held its annual Open House last Wednesday, Aug. 14, to give parents and families a chance to meet their child's teachers and advisers for the new school year.

After all the teachers, staff, and administrators were introduced, families spent time visiting their children's classrooms. While there, teachers shared information on class standards, academic goals, and communication expectations and procedures to help each child succeed. Parents were also encouraged to walk around the campus and gain more familiarity with the school.

"For the last two weeks, we have started each week reminding our students that we are family," said Mount Carmel School principal Barbara Merfalen. "In keeping with that value, we have encouraged many of our parents to be as involved in their child's academic journeys and the Open House was the first of many we hope to have this school year."

At the beginning of the event, parents assembled in the Maturana Building on campus for an opening prayer led by deacon Rosiky Camacho, followed by welcoming remarks by MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and introductions of the faculty and staff of the school. After sharing general housekeeping information, parents were given the time to walk around campus and meet with their child's teachers.

MCS parents Trinaleen Guerrero and Cadez Tenorio, whose daughter will be starting at MCS, are looking to learn more about what her teacher's focuses are for the new school year "and how we can help our daughter succeed."

"This is a whole new experience for us because we're first-time parents at Mount Carmel School, but what we are most eager for are the learning opportunities for our daughter and how her teachers will help her transition in as a new student," added Tenorio.

MCS parent and AlumKnight Eleanor Cabrera said, "I'm very excited for this new school year. I have two of my sons attending MCS and, as an AlumKnight myself, I'm very excited to see how they'll grow as individuals through their school work and the extracurricular activities they will participate in."

For those interested in applying for admission, Mount Carmel School still has limited slots available in certain grade levels. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Mount Carmel School held its annual Open House last Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, to introduce the team at MCS. Parents were able to meet their child's teachers and advisers for the new school year.

MCS

Nominations still being accepted for the '19 Bridge of Light Award

Nominations for the 2019 Bridge of Light Award are still being accepted until Friday, Sept. 6.

The award is given each year by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of one extraordinary individual or community hero who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

The nominee may be a service provider, first responder, representative, or volunteer at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI, and who has been there for a minimum of one year. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted by a victim or survivor; a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV and/or the Family Violence Task Force; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices.

To verify if an agency, organization, or office may nominate, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Nominations may be submitted online through https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=uYY_2FpGIXfgbIyABgKeXjcA_3D_3D. Hard copy nomination forms may also be submitted to the NMCADSV office located in Suite 206 of the Marina Heights I Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan during hours of operation (Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm).

It is strongly encouraged that those nominating be as detailed and thorough as possible on the form to show why their nominee is deserving of the award as those evaluating nominations will consider nominees based on the information provided.

The deadline to submit completed nomination forms is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

The recipient of the 2019 Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony in October.

Past recipients include Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert, Karidat Social Services counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz, Ayuda Network Inc. executive director Diana Camacho, and most recently, the Attorney General Office victim advocate John Aguon.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the coalition at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(PR)***

Orientation at Hopwood Middle School

Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School is inviting its students and parents to attend its back-to-school orientation on Aug. 30. The orientation will be at 5pm at the Saipan Southern High School.

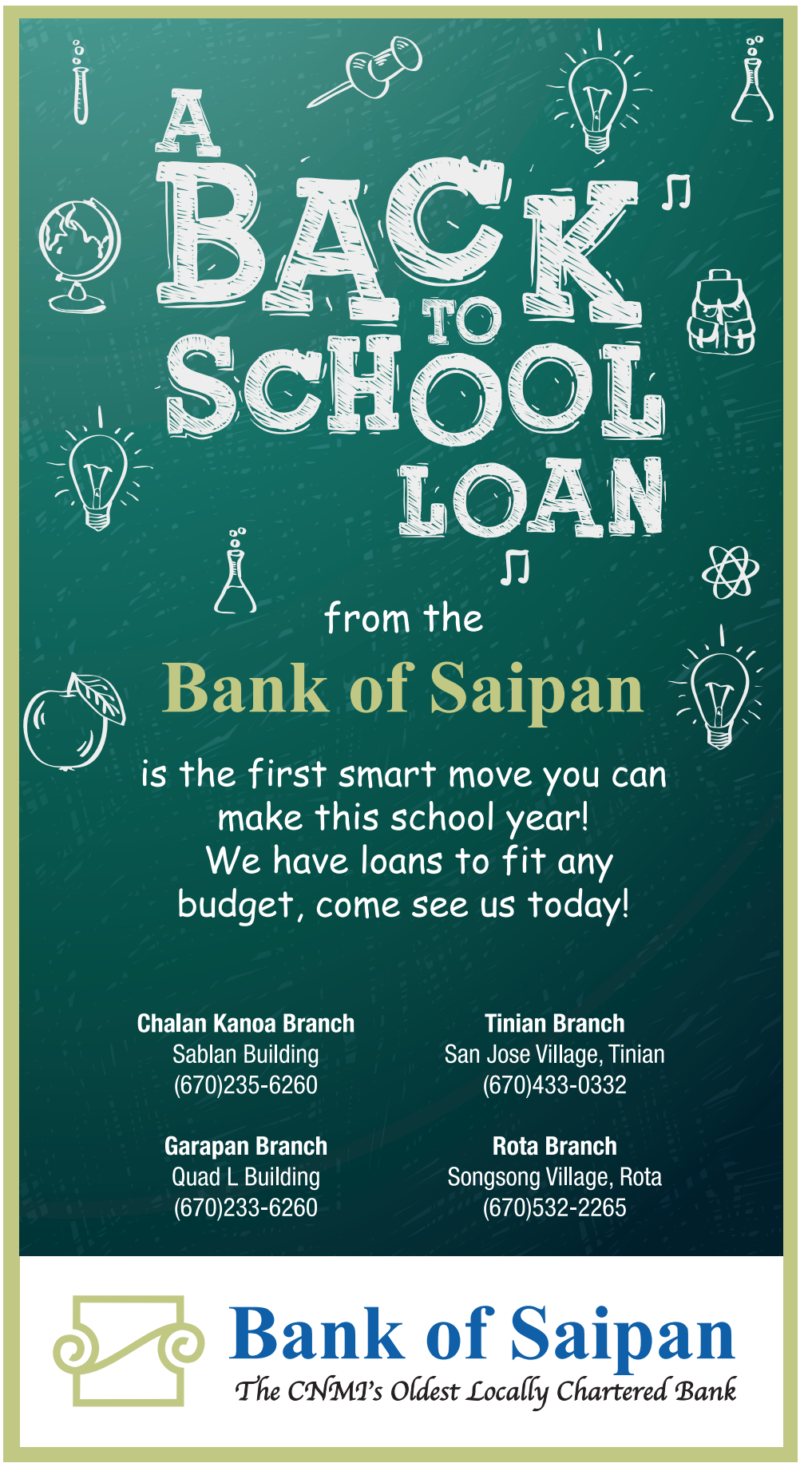
According to Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag, the orientation will focus on the upcoming school year and what the middle school will be doing in light of the school year.

Liwag said that Hopwood Middle School will begin posting the homeroom assignments of students tomorrow. "We are doing this in order to provide accessibility for the students before classes begin and they can get situated," she said.

This move will also provide ease for students intending to see their homeroom assignments beforehand, and this move was made to avoid any delays of students seeking their homerooms. Liwag said the homeroom assignments will be posted early to ensure that students know one week in advance of classes beginning.

"The homeroom teachers will be distributing the class schedules to students on the first day of instruction," she said.

Liwag also confirmed that Hopwood Middle School will be going on full-day sessions, from 8:25am to 3pm. ***(Marc A. Venus)***



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 166

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hottest month ever heats up climate change debate

The revelation last week that July was the hottest month on record shows why Californians should continue their efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and help lead the national push to replace the climate-change denier in the White House.

The state has already met its 2020 targets for greenhouse-gas reduction under the 2006 law signed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and has set ambitious future targets. But California's best opportunity to bring about significant change requires choosing in the March 3 primary a Democratic presidential nominee who has the best chance of defeating Donald Trump in November.

Polls show that Trump's dismissal of climate change as a hoax is overwhelmingly unpopular with potential 2020 voters. Democrats have an opportunity to use this issue to defeat him in 2020 and make further inroads in Congress. It's imperative that Democrats choose a candidate with a solid climate plan that has broad appeal.

The first two Democratic debates have not made that job any easier. The failure to emphasize climate change is beyond disappointing, as is Democratic National Committee Chair Tom Perez' effort to block calls for a debate on the topic. Voters need to hear the candidates' positions.

Progressives have been pushing the Green New Deal, a big, bold plan introduced in Congress in February to tackle both climate change and income inequality. But polls show that support for the plan falters when details are presented to moderate, independent voters who are likely to decide the outcome of the 2020 election.

Thursday's announcement by scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is only the latest warning sign that the president and Congress cannot afford to ignore the reality that the planet is steadily warming.

Climate change, of course, does not cause heat waves. But scientists say that it clearly acts to make them longer and hotter.

The result: The global average temperature in July was 62.2 degrees Fahrenheit—1.71 degrees higher than the 20th century average. That followed the previous month, which the NOAA said was the hottest June on record.

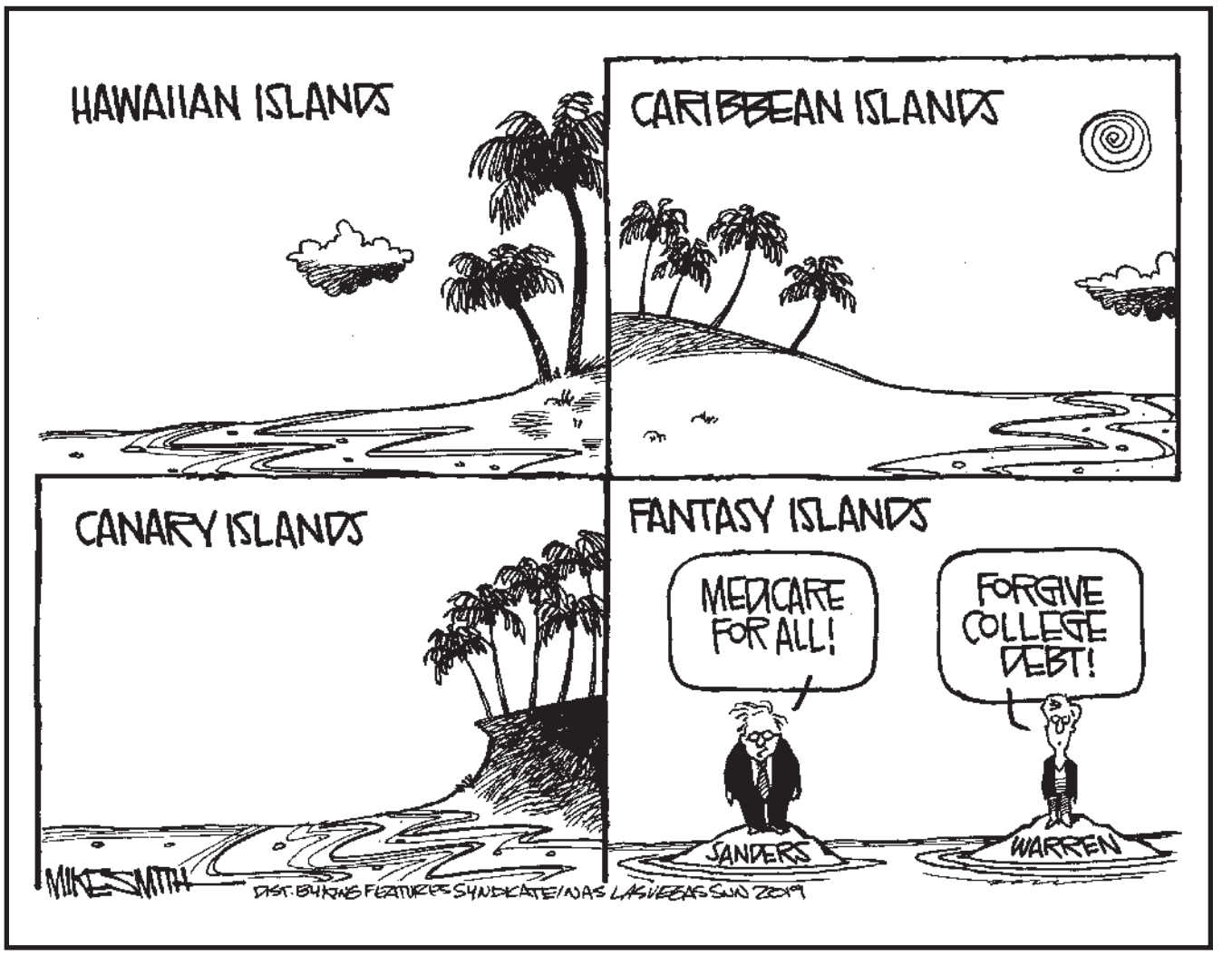
"It is virtually certain that we will have a 'top-five' warmest year on record" in 2019, said Deke Arndt, chief of the monitoring section of NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

The Bay Area and the nation as a whole may have enjoyed a relatively mild July, but the rest of the world sweltered in record heat. Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands set all-time heat records. The sizzling temperatures are responsible for wildfires in Siberia that have already burned 7.4 million acres, an area roughly equivalent to the entire state of Maryland.

Equally alarming, on Aug. 1, more than 12 billion tons of ice melted in a single day in Greenland, marking the largest loss of ice since records began in 1950.

Time is running out on our ability to combat the threat of climate change. We cannot afford another four years in which the federal government does not embrace the worldwide effort to fight global warming.

(c)2019 The Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)



Trump faces Obama's dilemma in Afghanistan

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg News

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the* Daily Beast *and covered national security and intelligence for the* Washington Times, *the* New York Sun *and* UPI.

When David Petraeus issues a public warning about Afghanistan, it's worth paying attention. That's what the retired general did earlier this month in the Wall Street Journal, urging President Donald Trump not to be lulled into believing the Taliban's promises to cooperate against international terrorism and respect the country's elected government.

Petraeus knows whereof he speaks. In Iraq, he developed and executed the counterinsurgency strategy that isolated and largely

In this photo taken on June 6, 2019, US soldiers look out over hillsides during a visit of the commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan General Scott Miller at the Afghan National Army (ANA) checkpoint in Nerkh district of Wardak province.
THOMAS WATKINS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

defeated al Qaeda. Then its mutated offspring, now known as the Islamic State, reemerged three years after a premature withdrawal of U.S. forces in 2011. The departure of U.S. troops then was "inadvisable," Petraeus writes, whereas a total withdrawal from Afghanistan today would be "indefensible."

Nonetheless, Trump and his allies are signaling a desire to end America's longest war—unilaterally. "We'll see what happens," Trump told reporters this weekend, saying U.S. talks with the Taliban and the Afghan government were going well. For the last six weeks, a stream of leaks have outlined a plan for withdrawing up to 6,000 of the 14,000 troops currently fighting in Afghanistan in exchange for the kinds of promises Petraeus says no one should trust.

He is correct. The Taliban's leadership is chock full of al Qaeda's patrons and allies, including its deputy commander, Siraj Haqqani. Thomas Joscelyn, a founder of the Long War Journal, which has tracked the war on terror for more than a decade, described him as "one of al Qaeda's closest and oldest allies." There is no evidence that the Taliban will betray al Qaeda, Joscelyn said, even if they pledge to do so now.

This has been the dilemma for U.S. foreign policy in Afghanistan for a decade: Despite the costs in blood and treasure, there is still no path to victory. As the carnage over the weekend shows, nearly 18 years after U.S. troops first invaded al Qaeda's sanctuary in Afghanistan, neither the Afghan nor the American military can bring peace.

At the same time, things can always get worse. As tempting as it might be to leave, once that happens the Taliban will take over and Afghanistan will once again become a "laboratory for terror," to use Trump's recent phrase. The question is whether Trump (or for that matter most Democrats) really believes this or is simply saying it as a negotiating tactic. It's good to demand assurances that Afghanistan won't become a safe haven for terrorists. But even if the Taliban agreed to those terms, without U.S. troops in the country, there would be no way to enforce them.

There is also the matter, hardly inconsequential, of Afghanistan's elected government. What will become of it when U.S. forces pull out of the country?

Again, there is no reason to believe the Taliban won't just pick up where it left off in 2001, and topple the government in Kabul and impose Islamic law. To this day, the Taliban refers to itself as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. It's worth reading some of its official documents. Earlier this month, its website warned Afghans before upcoming elections to stay away from political rallies and gatherings "that could become potential targets."

This is one reason not to believe the Taliban's promises to begin talks with the elected government once negotiations with the U.S. are complete. The Taliban intend to topple the admittedly imperfect government Afghans have freely chosen as soon as the opportunity presents itself.

See TRUMP on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

No reason for continuing the war in Afghanistan

By JOHN GLASER and JOHN MUELLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

America's longest war may be coming to an end. Although major obstacles remain, the Trump administration's negotiations with the Taliban, led by U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, have made progress toward an agreement that would include a U.S. military withdrawal. In July, President Trump said "it's ridiculous" that we're still in Afghanistan after almost two decades of stalemate. His 2020 Democratic challengers seem to agree—most have called for an end to the war—and fewer and fewer Republicans are willing to defend it.

But one persistent myth continues to frustrate the political momentum to end the war and may inhibit the impending debate over withdrawal. It is by far the most common justification for remaining in Afghanistan: the fear that, if the Taliban takes over the country, the group will let Al Qaeda reestablish a presence there, leaving the terrorist organization to once again plot attacks on the United States.

Experts have effectively contended that, although the Sept. 11 attacks were substantially plotted in Hamburg, Germany, just about the only reason further attacks like that haven't taken place is that Al Qaeda needs a bigger territorial base of operations—and that such a base will inevitably be in Afghanistan.

Virtually all promoters of the war in Afghanistan have stressed this notion. Barack Obama applied it throughout his presidency. Gen. David H. Petraeus, who commanded American forces in Afghanistan, recently contended that a U.S. withdrawal is still premature and would risk leaving behind a haven for terrorist groups comparable to the rise of Islamic State following the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq in 2011, according to a Wall Street Journal op-ed he co-wrote.

Trump reflected this thinking as well when he authorized an increase of troops to Afghanistan in his first year in office. His "original instinct," he noted, was "to pull out," but his advisors had persuaded him to believe that "a hasty withdrawal would create a vacuum that terrorists ... would instantly fill, just as happened before" the Sept. 11 attacks.

This key justification for staying in Afghanistan has gone almost entirely unexamined. It fails in several ways.

To begin with, it is unlikely that a triumphal Taliban would invite back Al Qaeda. Its relationship with the terrorist group has been strained since 1996, when Osama bin Laden showed up with his entourage. The Taliban extended hospitality, but insisted on guarantees that Bin Laden refrain from issuing incendiary messages and from engaging in terrorist activities while in the country. He repeatedly agreed and broke his pledge just as frequently.

Veteran foreign correspondent Arnaud de Borchgrave said he was "stunned by the hostility" expressed for Bin Laden during an interview shortly before Sept. 11 with the top Taliban leader. According to Vahid Brown of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, relations between the Taliban and Al Qaeda during this period were "deeply contentious, and threatened by mutual distrust and divergent ambitions."

Bin Laden's Sept. 11 ploy not only shattered the agreement, but brought armed destruction upon his hosts. The last thing the Taliban would want, should it take over Afghanistan, is an active terrorist group drawing fire from the outside. Moreover, unlike Al Qaeda, the Taliban has an extremely localized perspective and would be primarily concerned with governing Afghanistan.

In addition, it is not at all clear that Al Qaeda would want to return to a ravaged, impoverished, insecure and factionalized Afghanistan even if it were invited. It's difficult to see how an Afghan haven would be safer than the one Al Qaeda occupies in neighboring Pakistan.

There is also concern that the small branch of Islamic State in Afghanistan would rise if the Americans withdrew. However, Islamic State has suffered repeated tactical failures, has little to no support from the local population, and the Taliban has actively fought the group on the battlefield in Afghanistan for years, making a Taliban-sponsored safe haven for that group unlikely.

Most importantly, the notion that terrorists need a lot of space and privacy to hatch plots of substantial magnitude in the West has been repeatedly undermined by terrorist attacks in Madrid in 2004, London in 2005, Paris in 2015, and Brussels and Istanbul in 2016. None of the attackers in those incidents operated from a safe haven, nor were their plans coordinated by a group within a safe haven. Al Qaeda Central has not been all that effective since Sept. 11, but the group's problems do not stem from failing to have enough territory in which to operate or plan.

Pretending that the Taliban can be defeated, and that an independent and democratic government can be left in its place, is unrealistic. The Taliban may very well make further gains following a U.S. withdrawal, but the myth that territorial safe havens provide great utility to terrorists planning transnational attacks should not continue to justify a war that America cannot win.

John Glaser is director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute. John Mueller is a political scientist at Ohio State University and a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

Criminalizing undocumented workers harms all

Days after the Aug. 7 immigration raids in which approximately 680 people were arrested in poultry plants across Mississippi, federal court documents were unsealed that publicly revealed the evidence that led a judge to authorize the raids, the largest single-state immigration enforcement action in U.S. history.

The documents allege, among other things, that the raided plants were employing workers with electronic ankle monitors, hiring the same individuals multiple times under different identity documents and outsourcing recruitment and identity verification to third-party payroll contractors.

All of these practices are common knowledge among those of us long acquainted with the poultry industry's employment practices.

From California to Maine, and everywhere in between, employers are willfully hiring unauthorized workers who are desperate for stable jobs to feed their families. In doing so, undocumented immigrants are sustaining our own families, breaking their backs as the backbone of America's industrial food chain.

And while pundits continue the tired debate over whether we should fault immigrants for working without authorization or blame employers for turning a blind eye to their hiring, it may come as a surprise to learn that undocumented employment has not always been a crime.

In 1986, Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act. Besides enacting the country's last sweeping amnesty program, covering approximately 3 million undocumented individuals, the act made it illegal to knowingly hire workers without employment authorization and implemented a system of "employer sanctions" against those who do so.

But instead of curbing the employment of unauthorized labor, these sanctions served to force many workers into the shadows, expand the underground economy, create a black market of document fraud, undermine workers' abilities to advocate for themselves and drive conditions down for everyone. By establishing immigrant "illegality" in the workplace, the law emboldened corporations to intimidate and exploit undocumented laborers.

The proliferation of the web-based employment authorization verification system E-Verify over the past decade has only intensified these problems. Requiring that all job applicants pass a check that their Social Security number is valid has fueled a boom in identity loan, identity sharing and identity theft, sometimes arranged by employers themselves.

In my six years collaborating with the Mississippi Poultry Workers' Center from 2002 to 2008, I learned that passing laws prohibiting the employment of any group of vulnerable workers will not curb the practice of their hiring. Rather, such legislation only makes them more exploitable, more likely to accept low pay and poor working conditions and less able to organize for a safer and more secure workplace.

Employers in low-wage industries will continue to willfully hire these workers not because they are "bad" people or want to break the law, but because their bottom line depends on keeping labor costs to a minimum.

Such practices affect all workers, immigrant and U.S.-born alike, putting the latter in a position to either accept deteriorating pay and workplace standards or risk being replaced.

A third of a century with the Immigration Reform and Control Act's employer sanctions should teach us one thing: criminalizing undocumented labor is not the answer. Labor abuses run rampant in the poultry industry, fueled by an economic system that is accountable only to the owners and shareholders of corporations.

Workplace raids like those in Mississippi devastate long-standing communities in which immigrants are integral to the fabric of their neighborhoods, schools and churches.

Instead, we need an economic system that answers to working people, an immigration system that enables newcomers to put down roots and become wholly enfranchised members of our communities and a legal system that enforces labor and employment laws to protect both.

By ANGELA STUESSE
Tribune News Service

Angela Stuesse is a cultural anthropologist at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and author of Scratching Out a Living: Latinos, Race, and Work in the Deep South. *This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by* The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Strange things are happening'

So Greenland turned President Trump down in his bid to buy that nation. I cannot figure out his continuing oddball moves since he has already bought Israel. As the famous comedian, Red Buttons once said: "Strange things are happening" under this administration that could come to an end on Election Day in November 2020.

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

TRUMP

From Page 10

For Washington's self-styled realists, the survival of the elected government in Kabul is not worth the candle. As Trump said last month, U.S. troops shouldn't be building schools or gas stations in Afghanistan. If America remains in Afghanistan, its goal should be a permanent defeat of the Taliban. If that's not possible, it should get out.

Trump has been president for nearly three years. He reluctantly sent more forces to Afghanistan in 2017, but not enough to deliver the kind of victory he desires. So he now faces the same unsatisfying choice as his predecessor: He does not want to send the troops necessary for a complete victory. But he does not want to suffer the political embarrassment of a complete withdrawal.

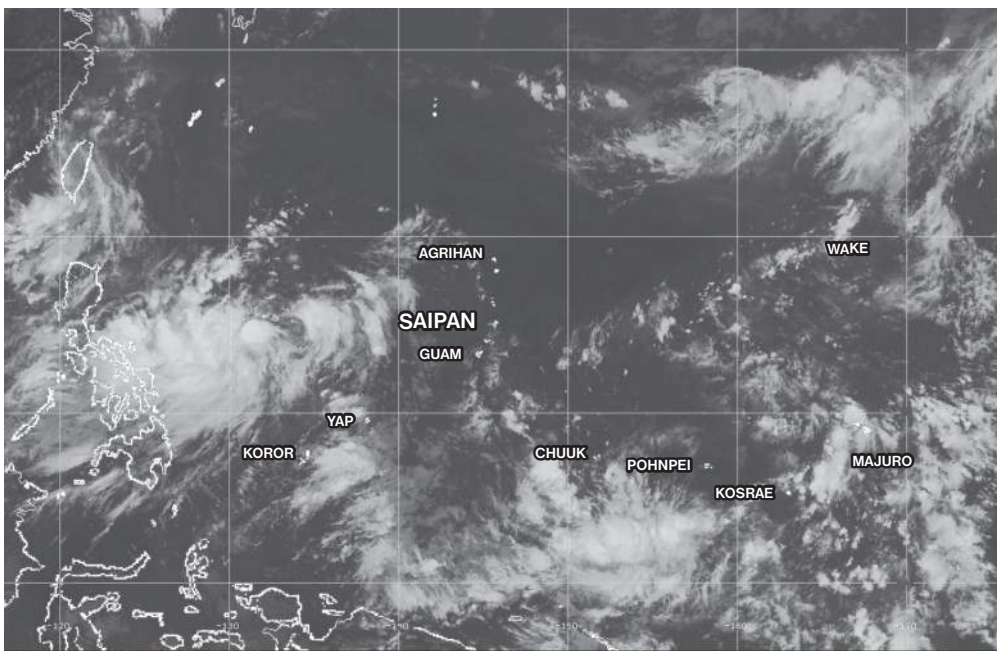
If Trump doesn't want to see a generation of American sacrifices squandered, he should resign himself to the least bad option: a residual U.S. presence in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future. An unenforceable peace with the Taliban is no peace at all.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
89° 78°	88° 76°	89° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:12 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates light and variable winds within the lowest 2 thousand feet of the air, which then turn east and increase, reaching 15 to 20 knots at 9 thousand feet. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet which are composed of 2 foot wind waves from the southeast and 3 to 4 foot swell from the southwest.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 66°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	90° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Sunny	61° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Thunderstorms	91° / 69°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	81° / 55°
Busan	Showers	84° / 73°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	70° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	94° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:08 AM	LOW TIDE	0.69
12:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.61
6:01 PM	LOW TIDE	0.90
11:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:05 AM	11:03 PM
Friday	-	11:56 AM	11:45 PM
Saturday	-	12:49 AM	-
Sunday	12:32 AM	1:45 PM	-
Monday	1:24 AM	2:44 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Xerox takes clients on digital journey

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Xerox hosted its annual Technology Show last Tuesday at the Xerox office in Garapan where they took guests on a digital journey of all its latest products. This year's theme "Building a digital workplace" aims to show Xerox products are cost-efficient, secure, accessible, promote creativity, as well as help conserve the environment.

All new features are compatible with Xerox Versalink and Altalink printers.

Tiffany Rabacal-Harper, an Office Solutions specialist from Xerox Hawaii, talked about how Xerox printers can fit into our daily lives and turning it as a workplace assistant by connecting through various apps available from the Xerox app gallery through ConnectKey Technology.

She said by using this feature, users wherever they are can have access to print, scan, and copy whatever documents they need and this equates to productivity.

"We use apps from our smart phones everyday… I connect to the cloud with it, I store things, I book all my travel and so Xerox made use of this medium of technology to connect people to the printers just by using apps,"

"You are cloud connected… whether printing, copying just wait for 20 to 30 seconds for the cloud to process and send to receiver… This feature adds up to the unlimited opportunities to streamline processes and improve productivity… you can access this in Android and Apple devices… " she added.

The convenience of this feature does not compromise document and data security. "The machines have built-in protections that meet and meet industry and government standards. It protects printed materials by not releasing documents until the rightful user is at the device and stored information is protected using the highest levels of encryption," she said.

BEA CABRERA
Tiffany Rabacal-Harper, an Office Solutions specialist from Xerox Hawaii, presents to customers from the business, government, and education sectors about Xerox's new products and features at the Xerox Technology Show held Tuesday at the Xerox office in Garapan.

"In addition to that, three new apps for Xerox ConnectKey are available: Xerox Auto Redaction, which automatically redacts personal identifiable information, custom words or phrases and renders sensitive data unreadable. Second is the Xerox Proofreader service, which gives users to focus more inn content and not corrections, and third, the Xerox audio documents which converts hard copy documents into MP3 files," she added.

Docushare specialist Dan Colley from Xerox California discussed another workplace solution called Xerox DocuShare Flex Content Management Platform. It helps businesses eliminate hard document prints and copies into a single consolidated, secure, and central scanning repository.

"We use Microsoft Azure across three centers in the U.S… we back it up every 15 minutes… so in the event of a natural disaster, your data is safe with us… This feature also assign tasks and manage employees workloads, create team folders that sends notifications and email collaboration, and access to the cloud empowers workers to manage business content," he said.

Another workplace assistant is called the Paper Cut MF that allows customers to track and control printing and copying based on uses, department, class, or client. It suggests environmentally printing options like double-sided grayscale printing or users can add rules to restrict function to reduce waste.

Harper also introduced the new CMYK Plus kit enhancement which can now be used in C-60 and C-70 printers. "We are able to bring this technology down and more affordable to print shops and users. With new toners in shimmering metallics like gold, white, silver, and clear which helps printing, marketing, and media businesses. It creates eye-catching prints for greeting cards, flyers, invitations, posters, signage, gift vouchers, and more," she said.

Michelle Atalig of Docomo Pacific Inc. said that the Technology Show is a win-win for both Xerox and its customers like her company. "It was very informative to discover new functions that we can apply to be more effective and efficient. At Docomo, we try to leverage technology that's why it's great to hear from Xerox what they are trying to do to make processes easier in the workplace."

Xerox Guam & Saipan general manager Pamela Quinata said not only does Xerox added more features but also made products that are affordable to cater small or big businesses.

"We always try to keep on top what the community needs. We meet their requirements to help the business community, government, and schools to have access to the best technology that they can ever have at a good price," she said.

Trump acknowledges China policies may mean US economic pain

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump acknowledged Tuesday his aggressive China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans but insisted they're needed for more important long-term benefits. He contended he does not fear a recession but is nonetheless considering new tax cuts to promote growth.

Asked if his trade war with China could tip the country into recession, Trump brushed off the idea as "irrelevant" and said it was imperative to "take China on."

"It's about time, whether it's good for our country or bad for our country short term," he said.

Paraphrasing a reporter's question, Trump said, "Your statement about, 'Oh, will we fall into a recession for two months?' OK? The fact is somebody had to take China on."

The president indicated that he had no choice but to impose the tariffs that have been a drag on U.S. manufacturers, financial markets and, by some measures, American consumers.

Trump was clear that he didn't think the nation is at risk of a recession and that a boom was possible if the Federal Reserve would slash its benchmark interest rate.

"We're very far from a recession," Trump said. "In fact, if the Fed would do its job, I think we'd have a tremendous spurt of growth, a tremendous spurt."

Yet he also said he is considering a temporary payroll tax cut and indexing to inflation the federal taxes on profits made on investments — moves designed to stimulate faster growth. He downplayed any idea that these thoughts indicate a weakening economy , saying, "I'm looking at that all the time anyway."

Asked about his remarks, White House spokesman Judd Deere said, "The president does not believe we are headed for a recession. The economy is strong because of his policies."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Police, protesters fill French beach resorts for G-7 summit

BIARRITZ, France (AP)—Thousands of French police are setting up checkpoints and combing Atlantic beaches to secure the southwestern coast for the world leaders who are coming for the G-7 summit this weekend. Protesters, too, are setting up camp in towns near France's border with Spain to prepare for protests during the Aug. 24-26 gathering of major world democracies. More than 13,000 police are taking up their posts for the summit, and French and Spanish intelligence officials are coordinating against any threats, French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said Tuesday. U.S. President Donald Trump will join host French President Emmanuel Macron and the leaders of Britain, Germany, Japan, Canada and Italy in the elegant resort town of Biarritz. Authorities are closing all air, train and road traffic to Biarritz to clear the way for the leaders. That's frustrating local businesses, since this is happening at the height of Europe's summer travel season. The city's biggest beach will also be closed.

Monopoly maker Hasbro to cut plastic use in toy packaging

NEW YORK (AP)—Hasbro is giving plastic packaging the boot. The toy maker said Tuesday that all its packaging for new products will be mostly plastic free by the end of 2022. It plans to stop using plastic bags, elastic bands and the shrink wrap that's usually found around Monopoly, Scrabble and other board games. But Hasbro's toys, such as Mr. Potato Head, will still be made with plastic. The company said it is testing materials to replace it, but said it's challenging to find an alternative that's still safe for kids and keeps toys looking the same as the plastic ones. Hasbro, however, said it has a program that allows people to ship in their GI Joes or My Little Pony figurines to be recycled. Plastic is a menace to the environment. Much of it ends up in landfills and doesn't disintegrate, breaking down into tiny pieces that can harm birds and other animals if eaten. Some cities and states have banned plastic bags and several companies have made their own changes to reduce plastic waste. Starbucks, for example, plans to get rid of plastic straws. And toy maker Lego is looking to find an alternative to plastic for its colorful bricks. Hasbro, which is based in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, said it will begin cutting down on plastic packaging next year.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,962.44	2,900.51	7,948.56
−173.35	−23.14	−54.25
.66%	0.79%	0.68%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4752	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8426	Russian Ruble	66.3662
British Pound	0.8226	Indian Rupee	70.8320	Singapore Dollar	1.3843
Canadian Dollar	1.3303	Japanese Yen	106.4270	South Korean Won	1181.69
Chinese Yuan	6.9303	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1275	Swiss Franc	0.9791
Euro	0.9014	New Zealand Dollar	1.5599	Taiwan Dollar	30.7956
		Philippine Peso	51.2723	Thailand Baht	30.7215

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

Customers First TRIPLE J

STORE HOURS: WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 11AM–8PM • SATURDAY 9AM–8PM • SUNDAY 11AM–6PM • AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

$17.95 BETTER CHEF STAINLESS STEEL EGG COOKER

BETTER CHEF 2 SLICE TOASTER $12.95

$17.95 BETTER CHEF PERSONAL BLENDER

$19.95 GOOLCOL DELUXE 10 CUP RICE COOKER 700W

$5.95 4SGM - WW 3PC 4-COMPARTMENT LUNCH CONTAINER

$47.95 IGLOO WHEELIE COOL 38QT 53 CANS COOLER

$99.95 AMAZON FIRE 7 TABLET 7" 16GB

$49.95 AMAZON FIRE STICK WITH ALEXA

$79.95 MARCO - WOODEN BAR STOOL WITH PU SEAT

$229.95 DOREL SANTIAGO 5PC DINING SET

$36.95 HONG MA 5FT. CENTER FOLDING TABLE

$25.95 CONAIR 3PK CURLING IRON SET

CONAIR 1875 WATT HAIR DRYER $17.95

$11.95 SUNBEAM ANALOG BATHROOM SCALE

ACDELCO 2 TON TROLLY JACK $35.95

PROPEL 12-FT TRAMPOLINE WITH ENCLOSURE $259.95

$189.95 Z SHADE PRESTIGE 13X13 INSTANT GAZEBO

GRACIOUS TRELLIS LOW BACK STACKABLE PLASTIC CHAIR $12.95

$59.95 HAMILTON BEACH 6 SLICE TOASTER OVEN

BETTER CHEF 1.7L GLASS CORDLESS KETTLE $25.95

$89.95 DEAL OF THE WEEK

OSTER 0.7 CU.FT. STAINLESS STEEL ACCENTS MICROWAVE

$9.95 BETTER CHEF 16" DISH RACK IRON CHROME

$259.95 KENMORE 3.5 CU.FT. CHEST FREEZER

$42.95 CRAFTSMAN 2.5 GALLON WET/DRY VACUUM

FRIGIDAIRE 6000 BTU WINDOW AC ESTAR ELE CONTROL $239.95

$9.95 ESSENTIAL HOME 12X48 DOOR MIRROR

$79.95 HOOVER WINDTUNNEL 3 PRO PET VACUUM REFURBISHED

$29.95 HONG MA BENCH FOLD-IN-HALF 6FT

NORTHWEST TERRITORY DIRECTORS CHAIR WITH TABLE $49.95

4SGM COSCO ALL STEEL FOLDABLE CHAIR $19.95

STOR 4-TIER SHELF SET $57.95

DALTON 5X6 BOUND RUGS ASSORTED $29.95

DALTON 6X8 BOUND RUGS ASSORTED $39.95

MARCO - 3.5FT. WOODEN SINGLE BED WITH 14PC SLATE BASE $45.95

DAHDOUL-EMIRATES 5'3" X 7'2' RUG $89.95

$49.95 BEBEMIO - DELUXE 3-IN-1 MEGA CAR

4SGM - SPIN MOP BUCKET WITH 2 MOP HEADS $27.95

CHAMPION BREED 50LB DOG FOOD $29.95

4SGM - NF OTD 12 TIER SHOE RACK HOLDS 36 PAIRS $17.95

4SGM - FARBERWARE METAL DRYING RACK $21.95

4SGM FARBERWARE 25.6" 3-TIER ESPRSS WOOD SHELF $13.95

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

It's no joke, mom: Florida teen arrested in school threat

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Authorities have posted a video of their arrest of a 15-year-old Florida boy who allegedly posted an online threat to kill at least seven people at a high school.

Volusia County Sheriff's officials interviewed the boy and his mother outside their home near Daytona Beach last Friday, and posted a video of their discussion to underline the consequences of making school threats.

The boy, whose name is not being used by The Associated Press, told investigators he was joking when he posted the message on Discord using the fake name Dalton Barnhart. In it, he vowed to bring his father's "M15" to Seabreeze High School in Daytona Beach and "kill seven people at a minimum."

The FBI alerted Volusia County authorities on Thursday, and deputies arrested the teen the next morning.

AP

A 15-year-old Florida boy is facing felony charges after posting a message while playing a video game that he would bring his father's "M15" to Seabreeze High School in Daytona Beach and "kill seven people at a minimum."

"Joke or not, these types of comments are felonies under the law," the sheriff's office wrote in its Facebook post.

In the video, the deputy tells the mother the boy had made a written threat to carry out a mass shooting.

"But he's just a little kid playing a video game," she protests. "These kids say stuff like that all the time. It's a joke to them. It's a game. And it's so wrong. I hate that game."

The deputy says law enforcement officers now spend a lot of time checking out similar threats.

"How do we know he's not going to be like the kid from Parkland, or he's not going to be like the kid that shot up Sandy Hook? We don't know that," he says.

"There is a Florida state statute that you cannot make a written threat to cause a mass shooting," he adds, explaining that her son would be charged with either a second- or third-degree felony.

"He's just a little boy," the mother says, getting emotional. "He didn't do anything wrong. Yes, he's 15, but he's still a little boy. He's not one of those crazy people out there doing stuff ... he shouldn't be treated as though he's a terrorist or something because he made a silly statement on a stupid video game."

The deputy asks if there's a gun in the home. She says yes.

"Ok, he has hands and feet and he can grab your gun and go do something," the deputy says.

The mother says her son wouldn't do such a thing.

"We don't know that," the deputy says.

"This is the world we live in, where people think it's funny to say I'm going to go kill people at school," the deputy adds, before taking the boy to juvenile detention. "He made the charge, he's going to face the consequences."

'I can't breathe' case clouds de Blasio's tenure, 2020 run

NEW YORK (AP)—Mayor Bill de Blasio's relationship with New York City's police force was destined to be rocky. He took office promising to overhaul how the city's 36,000 officers interacted with the public, especially people of color.

But Blasio's handling of one such interaction—the 2014 police killing of Eric Garner—permanently poisoned his standing not only with officers, but also many of the police reform activists who helped get him elected.

The ill will on both sides was apparent again Monday, when the department, after five years of delays, fired the officer who used a banned chokehold to wrestle Garner to the ground during an arrest over alleged sales of untaxed cigarettes.

Reform advocates welcomed the decision, but criticized de Blasio for allowing Officer Daniel Pantaleo to remain on the force for years after video showed Garner gasping "I can't breathe" as the officer cut off his airflow.

The head of the city's largest police union, meanwhile, angrily declared that officers had been "abandoned" by a mayor and police commissioner who are "absolutely afraid of the criminal advocates."

"The leadership has abandoned ship and left our police officers on the street alone, without backing," said Pat Lynch, president of the Police Benevolent Association, standing in front of a police department flag that had been hung upside down.

Neither criticism is new for de Blasio, who is now seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

Chants of "Fire Pantaleo !" interrupted de Blasio at a Democratic candidate presidential debate late last month in Detroit. The same chants rang out two days later at City Hall as de Blasio spoke to reporters after a police department administrative judge, in a precursor to Monday's decision, recommended that Pantaleo lose his job.

And police union criticism of de Blasio dates back to before his election, but hit a fever pitch in December of 2014, when two officers were killed by a disturbed gunman angry about police killings of unarmed black men. Lynch at the time said City Hall had "blood on his hands," and some officers began turning their backs on the mayor when he spoke at police funerals.

The police unions, angry with de Blasio over myriad issues including officers' pay, have chased him around the country on the presidential campaign with mobile billboards and newspaper ads.

Since taking office, de Blasio has tried to walk a line between promising reforms—like ending a police tactic of stopping and searching huge numbers of mostly black and Hispanic men for weapons—and assuring rank-and-file police officers that they have his support.

The mayor tried again after Police Commissioner James O'Neill announced that Pantaleo had been fired, saying he thought the NYPD had changed "profoundly" since Garner's death, and that its officers were people who had made "a good and noble choice to serve others, to protect others."

"To our officers - a simple statement: We need you and we need you to build deeper trust with all the people you serve," he said, "Because that is not only the right thing to do, it is the best way to keep everyone safe, officers and civilians alike."

In the initial aftermath of Garner's death, de Blasio spoke critically of the officers involved. He called bystander video of the confrontation between the white officers and Garner, who was black, "very troubling" and "very sad to watch."

Then, in a move that upset Garner's family and police reform activists, the city held off on any potential police department punishment for the officers, other than desk duty, while federal prosecutors conducted a lengthy civil rights investigation.

Public weighs in on gun bills after Virginia mass shooting

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Members of the public and special interest groups made their case Tuesday to a Virginia commission studying a broad range of gun safety proposals after a deadly mass shooting in Virginia Beach earlier this year.

The bipartisan Virginia State Crime Commission heard hours of testimony from speakers across the ideological spectrum as part of its work to develop policy recommendations for lawmakers, who are not scheduled to reconvene before a critical November election.

"It is not a problem that is easily fixed. And I appreciate you being here," said Lori Haas, a gun-control advocate whose daughter was injured in the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre when a student fatally shot 32 people. "But can we please not wait any longer to address this problem?"

The panel opened its meeting with presentations from law enforcement officials and staffers from advocacy groups before opening the floor for additional comment.

Some speakers cast bills the panel is studying—including measures that would ban assault-style weapons, expand background checks and allow the seizure of weapons from a person deemed an imminent threat—as commonsense ways to make the community safer.

Kristen Martin, a member of Moms Demand Action from Henrico County, spoke in support of strengthening laws preventing children from accessing guns.

"With all this data being thrown around, let's not forget all these numbers represent lives lost," she said.

Others argued the measures under consideration would do nothing to stop criminals and would infringe upon the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

"These laws are never going to be effective because criminals don't follow them," said Jay McDaniel of Petersburg.

Gun-rights advocates also expressed concern that some proposals, including ones that would expand the ability of localities to restrict guns in certain places, could leave Virginians unable to protect themselves from criminals.

"We've done nothing wrong, but again and again we are told that we have to accept more restrictions on our rights to self-defense for public safety. But what about our safety?" said Philip Van Cleave, president of the Virginia Citizens Defense League.

The work on gun safety fell to the crime commission after GOP lawmakers abruptly adjourned a special session called by Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam in the wake of the May 31 attack in Virginia Beach. A city employee fatally shot 12 people inside a municipal building before being shot and killed by police.

The July special session lasted less than two hours before legislation was referred to the commission. That effectively postponed any movement on gun laws until after this year's November election, when all 140 legislative seats and partisan control of the Legislature are up for grabs.

Democrats have accused Republicans of punting until after the election. Republicans have countered that the complex issue demands careful study and suggested Northam called the special session in part to deflect from a blackface scandal that almost drove him from office.

"We have a gun violence issue in Virginia that needs to be addressed, and we're here to try and come up with proposals and recommendations and policy options that will help do that," commission chairman Republican Sen. Mark Obenshain said Tuesday.

Asia

Afghans restore art shattered by Taliban as peace deal nears

AP
In this Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019 photo, conservator Sherazuddin Saifi works on pieces of a small statue damaged by the Taliban because they were judged to be against Islam, at the National Museum of Afghanistan, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban fighters arrived with hammers and hatred. What they left behind is laid out on tables at the National Museum of Afghanistan, 18 years later: shattered pieces of ancient Buddha figurines, smashed because they were judged to be against Islam.

Museum workers in Kabul have been trying to fit them together again as a nervous country waits for the Taliban and the U.S. to reach a deal on ending America's longest war. The agreement is expected to lead to intra-Afghan talks in which the extremist group would play a role in shaping Afghanistan's future.

As the workers pick with gloved hands through hundreds of neatly arranged shards labeled "ears," "hands," "foreheads" and "eyes," that future feels especially fragile.

Few details have emerged from several rounds of U.S.-Taliban negotiations held over the past year, and no one knows what a Taliban return to the capital, Kabul, might look like. The country still sees near-daily attacks not only by the long-established Taliban, who now control about half of Afghanistan, but also from a brutal local affiliate of the Islamic State group.

The Taliban's five-year rule imposed a harsh form of Islamic law, denying girls education, banning music and banishing women to their homes. It ended shortly after the U.S.-led invasion following the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks to rout the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaida and its leader Osama bin Laden.

Sherazuddin Saifi remembers the day the Taliban arrived at the national museum in 2001, a period of cultural rampage in which the world's largest standing Buddha statues in Bamyan province were dynamited, to global horror.

For several days, the Taliban set upon the Kabul museum's trove of artifacts from Afghanistan's millennia-old history as a crossroads of cultures: Greek, Persian, Chinese and other. They selected offending items that showed human forms, even early Islamic ones, shattered them with hammers or smashed them against the floor.

"We could not prevent them. They were breaking all the locks, entering each room and smashing all items into pieces," said Saifi, who is part of the restoration team. "It was heartbreaking and horrific ... they destroyed their own history."

More than 2,500 statues were shattered, parts of them ground into powder. Restoration work could take a decade, Saifi said, but "we really feel happy after we put these pieces together again" and revive their meaning.

Among the objects destroyed were the Hadda figurines, a notable collection of Buddhist sculptures discovered decades ago in eastern Afghanistan, near the present-day city of Jalalabad. Photographs that remain of the intact figurines, and the shards themselves, hint at delicate curls of hair or lip.

The Taliban smashed them into thousands of pieces, many the size of fists or even a coin. Now some of the shattered heads are held together with rubber bands in the workshop, part of a sprawling puzzle that can take days of patient effort to join a single piece to another.

The Hadda figurines are the museum's most visible sign these days of the years-long recovery from the turmoil in Afghanistan that began even before the Taliban, when warlords fought over Kabul in the wake of a Soviet retreat.

Much of the museum's holdings, thousands of pieces, were looted and the building was shelled, though some treasures were hidden in the presidential palace in Kabul and elsewhere. The roof of the room where the Hadda figurines are now being pieced together was destroyed.

The museum's recovery began in earnest in 2004, during the period when the defeated Taliban quietly began to regroup. A few hundred objects have been restored in recent years. Now the museum and the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute are compiling as complete an inventory as possible in the hope of tracking down missing artifacts—and saving a digital record of the collection in case of further threat.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US says it's ready to resume nuclear talks with North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The top U.S. envoy on North Korea says Washington is ready to restart nuclear negotiations with North Korea. Stephen Biegun made the comments Wednesday, a day after the U.S. and South Korea ended their regular military exercises that North Korea calls an invasion rehearsal. During the training, North Korea raised tensions with its own missile and other weapons tests. Biegun told reporters in Seoul that "we are prepared to engage as soon as we hear from our counterparts in North Korea." Negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang collapsed after a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam in February ended without any agreement. Trump and Kim met again at the Korean border in late June and agreed to resume negotiations.

Malaysia bans Indian Muslim preacher from public activities

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Police said Tuesday an Indian Muslim preacher, wanted in India for alleged money laundering and hate speech, has been banned from public activities after racial slurs in his recent speeches sparked outrage in Malaysia. Zakir Naik was grilled a second time by police on Monday for 10 hours after they received more than 100 complaints over remarks he made questioning the loyalty of minority Hindus and saying that ethnic Chinese are guests in Malaysia. Police spokesman Asmawati Ahmad said all public activities involving Zakir are banned to "avoid any controversy and hostility, and the potential to cause a tense atmosphere" in the multiethnic country. She said police will advise all parties organizing public talks involving Zakir to halt the events. Race is a sensitive issue in Malaysia, where ethnic Malay Muslims make up about two-thirds of its 32 million people, with large Chinese and Indian minorities.

Thai tycoon in poaching scandal convicted on firearms charge

BANGKOK (AP)—A court in Thailand on Tuesday sentenced a construction tycoon to six months in prison for illegal firearms possession in the latest case in a scandal that erupted when he was accused of poaching protected animals in a wildlife sanctuary. The Bangkok Criminal Court halved the one-year sentence for Premchai Karnasuta because he pleaded guilty. It rejected his lawyer's request that it commute the sentence to probation. Premchai and several employees of his Italian-Thai Development company were found with guns and the carcasses of a black panther and other animals when they were caught hunting in western Thailand in February last year. Premchai was already sentenced in March this year to 16 months' imprisonment for possessing the carcass of an endangered Kajij pheasant and firearms in public areas. He also received a one-year sentence in June for attempting to bribe a park ranger. He remains free on bail on all the charges, paying bail of 200,000 baht ($6,490) in the latest case.

Australian court upholds sex abuse verdict of Cardinal Pell

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—An Australian appeals court Wednesday upheld convictions against Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Catholic to be found guilty of sexually abusing children. The decision brought cheers from scores of abuse survivors and victims' advocates demonstrating outside court.

The Victoria state Court of Appeal in a 2-1 ruling rejected Pell's appeal of a unanimous jury verdict in December that Pope Francis' former finance minister was guilty of molesting two 13-year-old choirboys in Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral more than two decades ago.

Pell's lawyers will examine the judgment and consider an appeal to the High Court, Australia's final arbiter, his spokeswoman said in a statement.

"Cardinal Pell is obviously disappointed with the decision today," the statement said, adding that he maintains his innocence.

He was sentenced to six years in prison in March and is no longer a member of Pope Francis' council of cardinals or a Vatican official. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said soon after the appeal was rejected that Pell would be stripped of his Order of Australia honor.

Pell, 78, showed no emotion when Chief Justice Anne Ferguson read the verdict to a packed courtroom but bowed his head moments later. He wore a cleric's collar but not his cardinal's ring. Pell had arrived at the court in a prison van and was handcuffed as he was led away by a guard.

The Vatican is conducting its own investigation into sex abuse allegations against Pell and is expected to comment on the ruling later Wednesday.

Clerical sexual abuse and the Catholic church's handling of such cases worldwide have thrown Francis' papacy into turmoil.

In a little more than a year, the pope has acknowledged he made "grave errors" in Chile's worst cover-up, Pell was convicted of abuse, a French cardinal was convicted of failing to report a pedophile, and a third cardinal, former U.S. church leader Theodore McCarrick, was defrocked after a Vatican investigation determined he molested children and adults.

Ferguson said she and President of the Court of Appeal Chris Maxwell "decided that it was open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Cardinal Pell was guilty."

The two judges "accepted the prosecution's submission that the complainant was a very compelling witness, clearly not a liar, was not a fantasist and was a witness of truth," Ferguson said.

The dissenting judge, Justice Mark Weinberg, "could not exclude as a reasonable possibility that some of what the complainant said was concocted," particularly in relation to the charge that Pell had squeezed the boy's genitals and shoved him against a cathedral corridor wall as they passed in the midst of the choir moments after a Mass, she said.

"Justice Weinberg found that the complainant's account of the second incident was entirely implausible and quite unconvincing," Ferguson said.

World

Italian premier's resignation could bring elections in fall

ROME (AP)—Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte resigned Tuesday amid the collapse of the 14-month-old populist government, raising the possibility of new elections in the fall that could bring to power the anti-migrant interior minister who engineered Conte's downfall.

Addressing the Senate, Conte blasted Matteo Salvini for setting in motion a "dizzying spiral of political and financial instability" by essentially pulling the plug on the government. Salvini's right-wing League party sought a no-confidence vote against Conte earlier this month, a stunningly bold move for the government's junior coalition partner.

Conte blamed Salvini for sacrificing the government's survival in favor of his eagerness to become premier himself.

A lawyer with no political experience who was tapped to break a postelection stalemate last year, Conte struggled to hold together his often ideologically opposed coalition's forces—Salvini's right-wing League and the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement. He handed his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella at the presidential palace Tuesday night.

Mattarella, who is head of state, asked Conte and the rest of the government to stay on in a caretaker role. The president could test if there's enough support for a new government. Failing that, he might try to build a consensus to back a "neutral" figure to head a government whose main goal would be to lead the country through year's end, enough time to make painful budget cuts to meet European Union parameters.

If no other path is feasible, Mattarella would have to dissolve Parliament. Elections could then be held as soon as late October—3 ½ years ahead of schedule.

Salvini, who sat next to Conte during his speech, smirking at times, declared, "I'd do it all again." He repeatedly kissed a rosary he slipped out of his pocket right after Conte rebuked him for associating "political slogans with religious symbols."

Pressing for elections as soon as possible, Salvini said: "I don't fear Italians' judgment."

Salvini's party is soaring in opinion polls and triumphed in European Parliament elections in May. He's intent on capitalizing on this popularity with national elections.

His crackdown on migrants, whom the party's voter base largely blames for crime, appears to be a huge factor in Salvini's climbing popularity. The interior minister has adopted especially harsh measures against private rescue boats, which he contends essentially facilitate human trafficking of migrants across the Mediterranean from smugglers' bases in Libya to European shores.

Salvini insists that citizens are also behind his call for less influence by the European Union on everyday Italian life. Supporters at his rallies cheer his "Italians first" policies.

Should any early elections sweep Salvini into power, financial markets could be rattled by his Euro-skepticism.

Depicting himself in counterpoint to Salvini's often-derogatory depiction of European Union rules, Conte said he had "tried in these 14 months to guide Italy's policy along the path of a critical pro-Europe line, but always oriented constructively."

AP

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte, right, speaks as Deputy-Premier Matteo Salvini gestures beside him, at the Senate in Rome, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019.

Migrants exit rescue ship in Italy after 19-day standoff

MILAN (AP)—More than 80 people were being evacuated from a migrant rescue ship on Tuesday, capping a drama that saw 15 passengers jump into the sea to escape deteriorating conditions aboard and spurred Spain to dispatch a naval ship in a bid to end a weekslong humanitarian crisis with Italy.

Sicilian prosecutor Luigi Patronaggio ordered the seizure of the ship off Italy's southernmost island of Lampedusa—and the immediate evacuation of its passengers—after he boarded the vessel and met with port authorities as part of an investigation into possible kidnapping charges resulting from the refusal of hard-line Interior Minister Matteo Salvini to allow the migrants to get off the Spanish humanitarian ship named the Open Arms, the news agency ANSA reported.

"Finally, the nightmare ends and 83 people on board will receive immediate assistance on land," Open Arms said on Twitter. Hours later, migrants and crew celebrated as the rescue ship docked in Lampedusa. The migrants then walked one- by-one down a gangplank to land.

The rescued passengers have been on the Spanish-flagged charity ship since they were plucked from the Mediterranean 19 days ago.

Even after six countries stepped forward to take the migrants and Italy's governing coalition imploded partly because of the crisis, Salvini had refused to open Italian ports.

The minister staved off previous investigations resulting from other migrant standoffs and tweeted that he wasn't worried about the prospect of criminal charges.

"I am not afraid, I am proud to defend the borders and security of my country," Salvini wrote.

Earlier Tuesday, Spain's caretaker Socialist government sent a navy ship to escort the Open Arms back to a Spanish port after more than a dozen of the migrants jumped into the sea within view of Lampedusa, desperate to flee overcrowded and deteriorating conditions on the vessel following their rescue off Libya. Those who jumped overboard were quickly picked up by Italian ships.

Until the action by the Italian prosecutor, the Spanish move was the first concrete signal promising an end the humanitarian crisis involving the Open Arms.

"After analyzing all the options, this is the most adequate and the one that would allow resolving within this week the humanitarian emergency on board the Open Arms," the Spanish government said in a statement.

The migrants on the Open Arms were tantalizingly close to Lampedusa but forbidden by Salvini to disembark. The captain had previously told Italian authorities the crew of 17 was no longer able to maintain control, and they described the situation as "desperate."

After one Syrian national jumped and was rescued and brought to shore on Lampedusa, two more groups followed his lead. They were likewise ferried to land and spared a return to the ship.

Video showed people in life vests floating in the sea, some in groups and some individually, with a coast guard vessel nearby and rubber dinghies maneuvering to pluck them to safety.

Dozens of others have been evacuated in recent days for medical reasons or because they are minors. Officials said tensions on board were running high, with fights breaking out among the migrants.

Big questions linger as Russia shares radiation data

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia has resumed sharing data from radiation monitoring stations in Siberia after some were taken offline following a deadly explosion at a missile range, a nuclear weapons watchdog said Tuesday, while an American expert said the fact that more than one Russian site went offline at the same time suggests it was not the work of Mother Nature.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CNTBTO) said earlier this week that several Russian radiation monitoring stations went silent shortly after the Aug. 8 explosion at the Russian navy's testing range in northwestern Russia.

Lassina Zebro, the organization's executive secretary, said Tuesday on Twitter that the two Russian stations reported to be offline are back in operation and are now backfilling the data. He lauded Moscow for its "excellent cooperation."

William Tobey, a former deputy administrator at the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration, said it was "at least an odd coincidence" that the Russian sensors stopped transmitting data about the same time as the explosion occurred.

"Power outages, other failures, can knock down a particular place, but if more than one site is out, it would seem that that is a less likely explanation," said Tobey, a senior fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Russian authorities have offered changing and contradictory information about the explosion at the testing range in Nyonoksa on the White Sea, fueling speculation about what really happened and what type of weapon was involved.

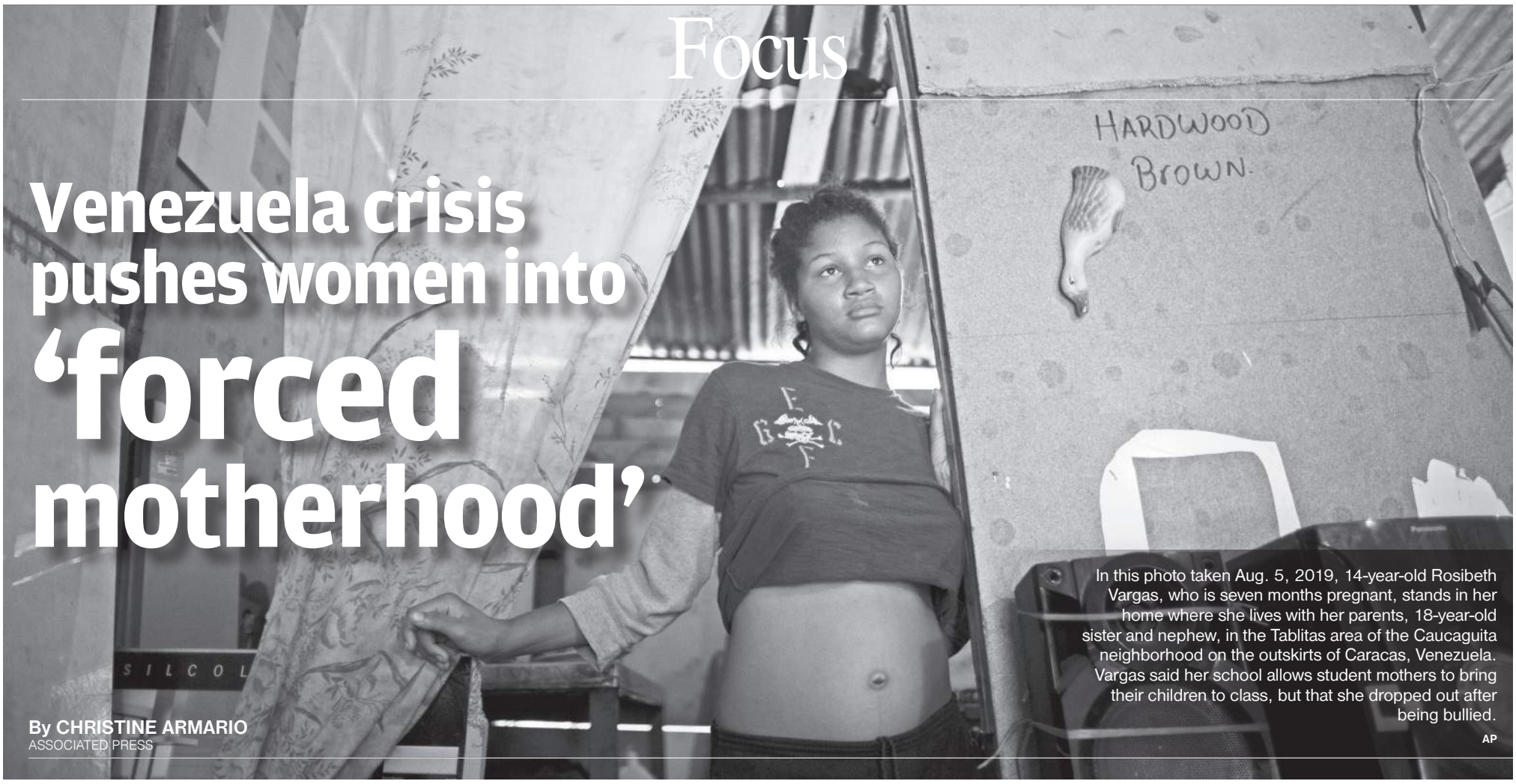
While the Russian Defense Ministry said no radiation had been released in a rocket engine explosion, officials in the nearby city of Severodvinsk reported a brief rise in radiation levels. The contradiction drew comparisons to Soviet attempts to cover up the 1986 explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, the world's worst nuclear disaster.

In his first comments on the explosion, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that it hasn't posed any radiation threat. Putin added that experts are monitoring the situation to prevent any "any unexpected developments." He didn't say what weapon was being tested when the explosion occurred, but described the test as a "state mission of critical importance."

Russia's state weather and environmental monitoring agency said the peak radiation reading in Severodvinsk on Aug. 8 was 1.78 microsieverts per hour in just one neighborhood—about 16 times the average. Peak readings in other parts of Severodvinsk varied between 0.45 and 1.33 microsieverts.

Focus

Venezuela crisis pushes women into 'forced motherhood'



In this photo taken Aug. 5, 2019, 14-year-old Rosibeth Vargas, who is seven months pregnant, stands in her home where she lives with her parents, 18-year-old sister and nephew, in the Tablitas area of the Caucaguita neighborhood on the outskirts of Caracas, Venezuela. Vargas said her school allows student mothers to bring their children to class, but that she dropped out after being bullied.

AP

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Saturnina Clemente pulls up to the small clinic in the impoverished Caucaguita neighborhood armed with one of Venezuela's most sought-after commodities: Hormonal implants to prevent pregnancy.

In a country where contraceptives are in short supply, word in the shantytown on the outskirts of Venezuela's capital spreads quickly. The lucky get on a list run by community leaders. The less fortunate hope there will be extras.

The veteran doctor has 104 implants and there won't be enough for everyone. As a physician at the nation's largest pediatric hospital, Clemente knows first hand that the consequences for those who don't get one are high.

"It's a sense of impotency, of frustration," she says. "You see that it's not enough, that the demand is much higher."

As Venezuela's crisis deepens, women are bearing the brunt of the nation's upheaval. Despite promises by the socialist government to provide every woman access to family planning, recent surveys and interviews with health professionals indicate access to contraceptives remains incomprehensive.

International organizations like the U.N. Population Fund have begun stepping in by importing tens of thousands of contraceptives this year, but their work is still limited. It's an ordeal with increasingly international ramifications, as a growing number of pregnant women flee to countries like Colombia seeking care they cannot get in Venezuela.

"Women are getting pregnant and don't have options," said Luisa Kislinger, a women's rights activist. "They're forced into motherhood."

Nicol Ramírez is 15 and already a mother. Her name is on Clemente's list, but to get an implant she needs to show a negative pregnancy test. The young mom and her older sister frantically call their mother. They need 40,000 bolivars, the equivalent of about $3, in order to do the simple test at a nearby laboratory.

"The situation in this country isn't one for having children," Ramírez says, balancing her baby daughter on one hip. "I'm still a girl myself."

During the late Hugo Chávez's presidency, Venezuela's government expanded services aimed at helping poor mothers by providing monthly cash transfers. Chavez lavished praise on women and hailed the so-called "revolutionary mothers" who would help promote his vision.

The 1999 constitution he advanced guarantees "full family planning services" to women among a host of other benefits.

"The socialist revolution should be feminist," he declared.

Despite those initiatives, Chávez's government made only modest advances, at best, in improving contraceptive access. Government data shows that teenage pregnancies continued to steadily increase during his time in power.

"There was a major advance with the constitution, with getting all these new rights and state obligations," said Rachel Elfenbein, the author of an upcoming book on social programs created under Chávez for women. "But when it came to implementation, if and where it happened, it was patchy."

President Nicolás Maduro has struggled to advance his predecessor's agenda amidst a crippling economic contraction worse than the U.S. Great Depression. Few if any women still get cash transfers except for occasional "bonuses" equivalent to a dollar or two. Maternal death rates rose over 65% between 2015 and 2016.

"Under Maduro we've seen an unprecedented setback," Kislinger said.

Health professionals believe Venezuela could cut its high maternal mortality rate by a third doing one thing: Providing contraceptives.

The extent of Venezuela's birth control shortage and the impact on women is difficult to quantify in part because the government has not released information on key indicators like teenage pregnancy since 2012. According to those now dated figures, just over 23% of all births in Venezuela were to women under the age of 20.

Some independent health organizations and women's rights groups contend the rate could now be as high as 28%. A study of four hospitals last year found that over a quarter of all births recorded were to teenage mothers.

The most recent U.N. world population report estimates Venezuela's teen pregnancy rate is about 85.3 per 1,000 adolescents ages 15-19. That figure would mark a slight decline, though is still over double the global rate. By comparison, Colombia's rate is 66.7 per 1,000 teens ages 15-19.

"We don't know what the reality is in 2019," said Nelmary Díaz, a program director the Civil Association for Family Planning, an organization that runs several clinics and has operated since 1986. «That worries us.»

After years of denying the existence of a humanitarian crisis, Maduro has recently begun allowing international aid. While a large part of the emergency assistance has gone toward food and medicine, a small portion is going toward reproductive health.

The U.N. Population Fund has imported 45,000 hormonal implants so far with the government's authorization. An estimated 17,000 have been distributed thus far at hospitals and clinics like the one in Caucaguita where women line up before dawn.

"I don't want to have more kids," said Yailyn Salas, 20, the mother of a 9-month-old son in the line. "I want to close the shop."

Among the millions of Venezuelans who have chosen to flee are thousands of pregnant women. In Colombia, over 26,000 Venezuelan women have given birth since August 2015. That surge is straining Colombia's already fragile health care system and testing the nation's mostly welcoming approach toward Venezuelan migrants.

In recent months, the mayor of one large Colombian city likened Venezuelans to "a poor baby factory" while a popular newspaper columnist implored migrants to "stop giving birth."

"If you don't stop reproducing like you are, it's going to be even harder to see you as an opportunity for growth instead of a problem," journalist Claudia Palacios wrote.

Ramírez found out she was pregnant at 14 with her boyfriend of one year. Condoms and birth control pills were either impossible to find or too expensive. When she told her boyfriend the news, Ramírez said he responded coldly. He was 23 and already a father. He told her that he couldn't handle another responsibility.

She hasn't heard from him since.

Adolescent moms under 15 are twice as likely to die during pregnancy. Though Ramírez had access to prenatal care, doctors nonetheless had to perform an emergency C-section after the baby's heartbeat became irregular.

"She was born practically dead," Ramírez said, her soft voice turning somber.

Ramírez's ordeal to find birth control isn't unusual. An independent survey of 151 pharmacies consulted over a five-month period last year found some contraceptives like the patch could not be found at all in Venezuela, while others including birth control pills are experiencing near-total shortages.

Even with this year's increased access to aid, experts say Venezuela will need far more to address the needs of the estimated 9 million women in the country at risk of pregnancy.

"It's a very small impact," said Jorge Díaz Polanco, a sociologist with the independent Venezuelan Observatory of Health.

Clemente's brigade was able to get ahold of a handful of the U.N.-provided implants that prevent ovulation and last four years. On two recent days, her team set up shop at a clinic where posters in support of socialist leaders filled the walls. They quickly got to work, injecting each woman with an anesthetic and then sticking a small metal tube into their upper arm so the implant could be pushed through.

By 11:30 a.m. the contraceptives were gone.

"The implants have run out!" an organizer dressed in a faded Stone Temple Pilots T-shirt shouted.

Nearly 40 women were still in line. Some sighed. Others were visibly angry.

"I feel deceived," said Salas, who missed the cutoff.

She said a nearby health organization was selling birth control implants at a subsidized cost of around 90,000 bolivars, or $6.50. But that was just slightly less than what her husband makes an in an entire week.

"If I get one, I don't eat," she said.

Ramírez and her sister were among the lucky few to get the last of the implants after they showed Clemente's team their negative test. Their mom had managed to get them the money.

Three other women that day would learn they were pregnant.

Ramírez cringed as a nurse injected her with the anesthetic before placing the implant. Just as the procedure finished, the lights in the building went out—the second blackout in the neighborhood that week.

Ramírez left the darkened clinic with her baby in her arm, relieved to know she wouldn't become a mom again soon.

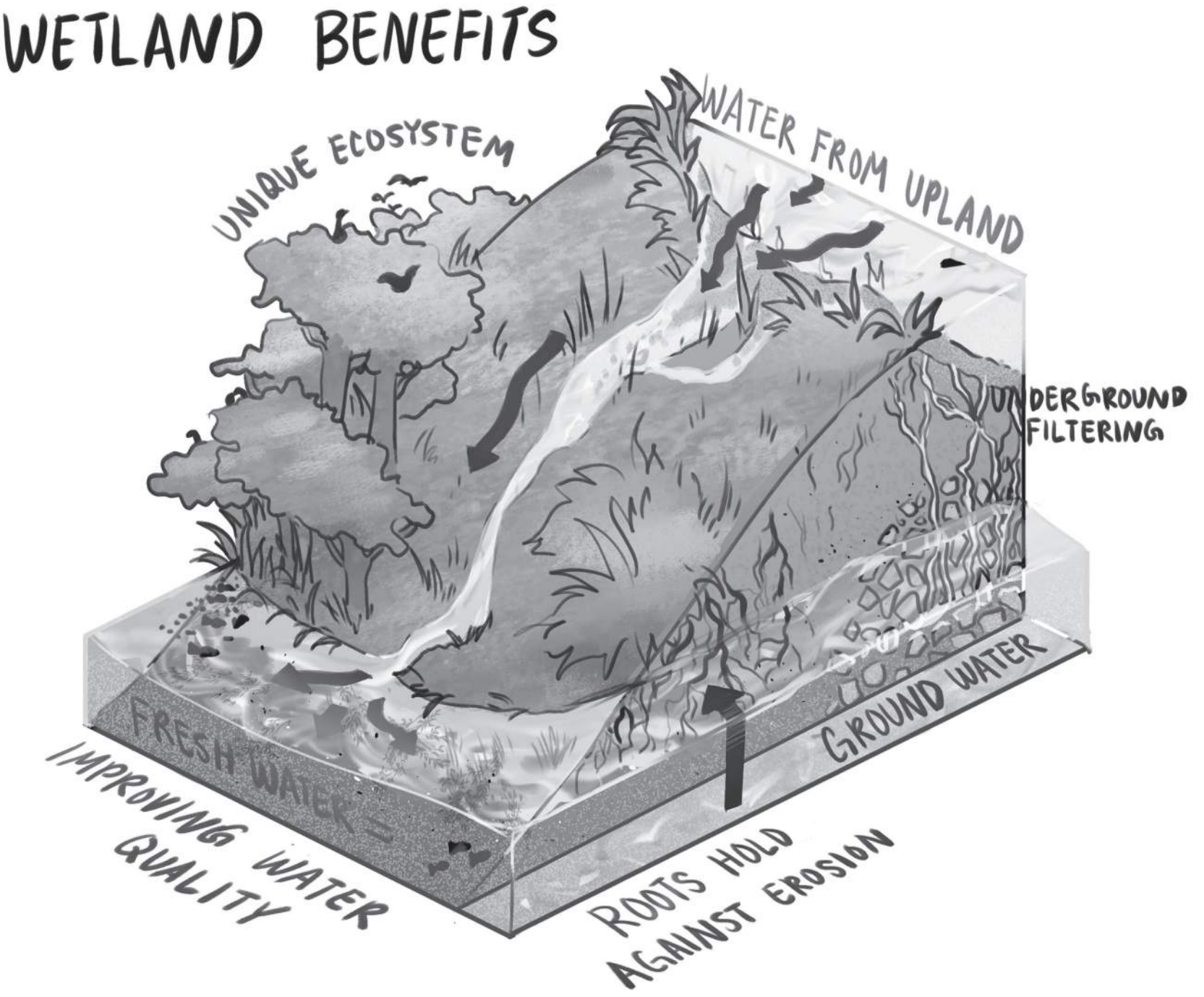
"I'm not ready to have a child," she said as her baby began to cry. "I'm a girl who is 15."

Environment

Do we really need wetlands in the CNMI?

By CERIJEAN F. MANGUBAT
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cerijean F. Mangubay is a student at the Northern Marianas College and currently serves as a summer intern with the Division of Coastal Resources Management. This article is the third of a short series that discusses the significance of DCRM's areas of particular concern (APCs) and why these resources are subject to special management standards.



What are wetlands? As the name implies, a piece of land that is wet, of course. But there is a deeper explanation for that, a reasoning that can affect the way we live if we don't take actions to protect it. Before coming in to my DCRM internship, that line of thinking was my default definition of a wetland. And while it's not wrong, I realized that I have a lot to learn about wetlands, especially after participating in one of DCRM's cleanup events at Jeffrey's Beach.

Wetlands are areas of land saturated in surface or groundwater (usually submerged, depending on the season). They come in a variety of forms such as ponds, lakes, swamps, mangroves, streams, or for Jeffrey's Beach, a coastal estuary. An estuary is where the mouth of a river meets the open water. And since water from the Talofofo watershed upland filters down into Jeffrey's beach, this area of land is considered a brackish (where fresh and saltwater converge) or coastal wetland.

This is one of the many abilities a wetland has for the environment and one of the prime reasons to preserve its livelihood. Firstly, they can naturally filter out polluted water which is vital to human health and wildlife survival. The complex and unique vegetation that grows in a wetland cleans the polluted water of unwanted chemicals, debris, nutrients and sediments. So, for instance, when freshwater from the Talofofo watershed flows down the natural waterway or stream and into the ocean, it is filtering the polluted water at the same time.

Mammals, birds, amphibians, and certain marine life also rely on wetlands due to the multitude of plant life that this habitat can house. It is able to hold endangered species of plants and animals in their certain corners of the world such as the endangered Rota Blue Damselfly in Rota or the endangered Mariana Common Moorhen in the marshes of Saipan. These habitats not only house thousands of wildlife and keep our water quality in check just by living out their natural cycles, it also keeps us safe from flooding.

Another function of a wetland is erosion control. During the rainy season, wetlands absorb stormwater runoff into the ground by either trickling directly down for groundwater recharge or is filtered into streams, and eventually, the open ocean. Flooding would naturally accelerate waters that are already eroding away our landmass. Wetlands help mitigate the damage. It can help reinforce the land through their plant life, binding the earth together to withstand against those tides. This becomes increasingly significant especially when our region is expected to experience more frequent and intense extreme rainfall events due to global warming (*PIRCA Climate Science Summary, 2019).

» DCRM area of particular concern: Wetlands and mangroves

The most common causes of wetland loss are impacts from developments (land clearing and backfilling) and the introduction of invasive species such as the exotic mosquito fish (Gambusia affinis) and tilapia (Sarotheradon mossambicus), (Best & Davidson, 1981). We place ourselves at risk when properties are being developed on wetlands, while those built in lower areas become more susceptible to flooding. Unchecked flooding can cause damages in revenue and towards the environment especially with improper channeling of those waters.

The loss of a wetland can be reduced or avoided if we take the necessary steps to- (1) learn more, or educate each other more, about the important functions and benefits of a wetland; (2) appreciate the services or benefits that it provides, or can provide, to communities including various species that depend on it; and (3) consider alternative measures to avoid developing a wetland. We must ensure that wetlands continue to function the way it was naturally created to function. As natural stewards of the environment, we need to start making wise and eco-friendly decisions like how to improve the quality of our groundwater source.

Although it is not our intent to stop development, we must remind ourselves that we are, first, natural stewards of our environment. We must invest in more eco-friendly alternatives or practices that will help preserve our wetlands, streams, and mangroves for future generations and our island way of life. Please help preserve the very few wetlands that we have left in the CNMI. So yes, we need healthy and functional wetlands.

■■■

If you are proposing a project or activity within the Wetland APC, please apply for a coastal permit at the BECQ-DCRM, Permitting Section, Gualo Rai Center, Suite 303, Middle Road, Lower Gulao Rai, or call Permitting Section at 664-8300 for more information.

Words to know:

Wetlands—The geographic area of particular concern in which the ground is saturated by surface or groundwater, it has an ability to support vegetation and maintain its own unique ecosystem. Wetlands consist of swamps, marshes, mangroves, lakes, natural ponds, surface springs, streams, estuaries, or similar areas.

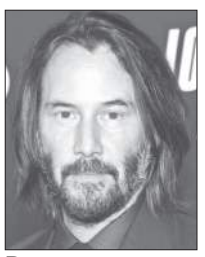
**Pirca Climate Change Science Summary Update 2019, Climate Change in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Indicators and Considerations for Key Sectors.*

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

New 'Matrix' film set with Keanu Reeves and Lana Wachowski

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Keanu Reeves and Lana Wachowski are returning to the world of "The Matrix." Warner Bros. Pictures Group chairman Toby Emmerich says Tuesday that a fourth "Matrix" is in the works. Reeves will be reprising his role as Neo and Carrie-Anne Moss will return as Trinity in the film that will be co-written, directed and produced by Wachowski, who co-created "The Matrix" with Lilly Wachowski. Lana Wachowski says in a statement that the ideas of "The Matrix" are more relevant than ever now and she's happy to have the characters back in her life. Emmerich says Wachowski is a true visionary. The first film hit theaters 20 years ago and spawned two sequels that cumulatively made more than $1.6 billion at the global box office. No release date has been set.


Reeves

25th Bond movie gets a title: 'No Time to Die'

NEW YORK (AP)—The 25th James Bond movie has a title: "No Time to Die." Producers announced the moniker Tuesday for the film that has long been referred to simply as "Bond 25." "No Time to Die" returns Daniel Craig to the role of 007. Lea Seydoux, Naomie Harris, Ben Whishaw and Ralph Fiennes return as cast members. Rami Malek plays the villain. "No Time to Die," directed by Cary Fukunaga, is to be released in the U.K. on April 3, 2020, and in the United States on April 8. A few setbacks have marked the production. An explosion during shooting at Pinewood Studios in June injured a crew member and damaged the sound stage. Craig hurt his foot in May while performing a stunt in Jamaica that required minor ankle surgery.

Harvey Weinstein wants to move trial out of NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for Harvey Weinstein has asked that the disgraced movie mogul's upcoming criminal trial be moved out of New York City, saying he can't get a fair trial. In a longshot motion filed with the New York State appellate court on Friday, attorney Arthur Aidala suggested the trial be moved to upstate Albany County or Suffolk County on Long Island. The motion cited the intense media coverage and circuslike atmosphere surrounding Weinstein's past court appearances in Manhattan, even noting that Weinstein's name was mentioned online on the New York Post's gossip column Page Six more than 11,000 times. "It is safe to say that New York City is the least likely place on earth where Mr. Weinstein could receive a fair trial, where jurors could hear evidence, deliberate, and render a verdict in an atmosphere free of intimidation from pressure to deliver a result that the politicians, the activists, the celebrities and the media demand," Aidala wrote.

Marvel's involvement in 'Spider-Man' movies may be in doubt

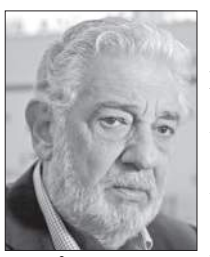
LOS ANGELES (AP)—With great success comes great re-negotiation. In the wake of the announcement that "Spider-Man: Far From Home" is now the highest-grossing film ever in Sony Pictures' history, reports surfaced that Marvel Studios may be stepping away from the cross-studio partnership. The Hollywood trade Deadline reported Tuesday that there was a disagreement over the profit-sharing structure. According to a person close to the deal who was unauthorized to speak publicly, negotiations are not yet final. But the suggestion that Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige may not produce future live-action "Spider-Man" movies and that the character itself might not appear in any more Marvel Cinematic Universe films quickly turned into a trending topic. Sony has held the rights to the Marvel character since 1985, but in 2015, announced a partnership with Disney and Marvel that would allow Spider-Man to be used in MCU films like "Avengers: Endgame." It also allowed for Feige to serve as a producer on stand-alone "Spider-Man" movies like "Far From Home."

Larry King seeks divorce from seventh wife after 22 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Larry King is seeking a divorce from his seventh wife, Shawn King, after 22 years. The 85-year-old talk show host filed a petition to end the marriage Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. Larry King and Shawn King, then a singer and TV host, married in 1997 and have two adult sons, Chance and Cannon. They both filed for divorce in 2010 but later reconciled. Larry King has been married eight times to seven different women and has five children. He married and divorced Alene Akins twice. He has overcome several serious health issues in recent years, including a bout with lung cancer two years ago.

LA Opera names lawyer to lead Placido Domingo investigation

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Los Angeles Opera said Tuesday it will immediately open a "thorough and independent investigation" into allegations of sexual harassment against the opera star Placido Domingo, the company's general director. In a brief statement Tuesday, the opera company said it has hired Debra Wong Yang from the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher to lead the investigation. LA Opera did not respond to questions about how the investigation would be carried out and its expected duration. Yang is a former U.S. attorney and Los Angeles County Superior Court judge who is chair of her firm's Crisis Management Practice Group, according to the firm's website. She has been involved in several high-profile cases and was hired by USC in 2017 to investigate the conduct of a former medical school dean. The investigation into Domingo's behavior follows an Associated Press report last week detailing multiple accusations against the 78-year-old opera star.


Domingo

Charges dropped against alleged thief of McDormand Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors on Tuesday dropped the case against a man charged with stealing Frances McDormand's Oscar statuette from a 2018 Academy Awards after-party. Terry Bryant's felony grand theft trial was to begin Tuesday, but Los Angeles prosecutors said in court that they were unable to proceed with the case against the 58-year-old. Superior Court Judge Sam Ohta then granted a defense motion to dismiss it. The district attorney's office gave no explanation for the decision, and Bryant's attorney wasn't immediately available for comment. McDormand won the award for best actress in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" on March 4, 2018, and lost the statuette after having it engraved at the Governors Ball, the official Academy Awards after-party, held in the same Hollywood complex as the Dolby Theatre where the show takes place.

'America's Got Talent' continues summer dominance for NBC

NEW YORK (AP)—"America's Got Talent" wasn't content with just the top spot in the Nielsen company's rankings of the most popular television programs last week. This time it took the top two. First place is familiar territory for NBC's talent competition. It has been the most-watched summer series for six straight years and the No. 1 alternative summer series for all 14 years that it has been on the air. The dominance continues even though the show is slipping in popularity, which is typical of most TV series these days. "AGT" averages 11.4 million viewers live and within a week of an episode's premiere, down 18% from last year, Nielsen said. Still, that's almost 4 million viewers more than the second-ranked show of the summer, ABC's "Bachelorette," which had 7.5 million viewers within a week of its premiere this summer.

Jury to weigh ex-school head's lawsuit against writer Sparks

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A jury will decide whether the former head of a private Christian school that novelist Nicholas Sparks founded in his North Carolina hometown was unjustly fired, then defamed when the author said the educator suffered from mental illness. Attorneys are expected to summarize their evidence Wednesday before jurors begin deliberating whether Saul Hillel Benjamin resigned or was pushed out. Jurors also will decide whether Sparks, his foundation and Epiphany School of Global Studies owe Benjamin money. Sparks and the school are based in New Bern, about 120 miles (195 kilometers) east of Raleigh, where the federal trial is being held. Sparks says Benjamin lied about his experience and job performance and also caused a series of campus conflicts that justified his firing. Sparks says Benjamin accepted $150,000 to resign instead.

Sparks

Man wants input from wife to plan couple's activities

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 36 years has never introduced me to a restaurant, bought concert tickets or planned a vacation. She seldom suggests movies she wants to see or introduces me to any form of music. She claps her hands like a little girl when I say we are going out for ice cream, a walk or to a festival.

I have encouraged her repeatedly over the years to be a more active participant in our relationship and to be my partner. Nothing changes. If not for my encouragement, she would have never gotten her degree, gone to concerts or on vacations or experienced life. I plan everything. To her credit, she's willing to go anywhere and do almost anything, but I'm increasingly resentful that my wife acts more like a daughter than a partner. I have been trying desperately for years to accept this, but I'm sick of it.

TIRED OF IT IN OHIO

DEAR TIRED: Your wife appears to be a follower rather than a leader. You should have raised this issue a long time ago and included her when you were planning outings. Because the status quo is no longer working for you, you must tell her exactly what you have put in your letter. And while you are at it, show her HOW to do the research so she can suggest things to do, and things may improve. But do not blame her entirely because some of it may rest with you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are arguing about what college our son, "Wyatt," should go to next year. I think it should be our son's decision to choose the college with the degree program he wants. My husband disagrees. He wants our son to leave the nest, explore the world and become more independent. My husband says Wyatt is a "mama's boy" and too reliant on me.

Wyatt wants to go to our local university, which offers the degree program he wants. He said: "I can go to the local school. You and Dad won't have to pay room and board or out-of-state tuition, and I can keep my job and help pay for groceries or help with tuition."

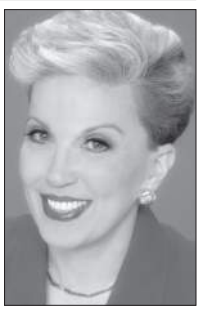
For some reason, that statement means nothing to my husband. He wants Wyatt out of the house. Should I let my husband duke it out with our son because I have already stated my opinion more than once, or keep arguing that Wyatt should pick the college? This whole thing is stressing our son out because he wants to please his father, and I'm tired of my husband coming down on me for how I raised our son.

CHALLENGED IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR CHALLENGED: I have to wonder if there is some other issue going on between your husband and your son that you didn't mention. Wyatt appears to be thinking logically. He's working and has offered to contribute to the household expenses.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Many parents would be thrilled their son chose a school nearby. That your husband would label your son a "mama's boy" and toss him out of the house is not helpful; it is hostile. Criticizing you for the way Wyatt has been raised is a cheap shot.

Before making up your mind, talk to Wyatt's guidance counselor at school. If the person knows your son, it could prove helpful to hear his or her perspective.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

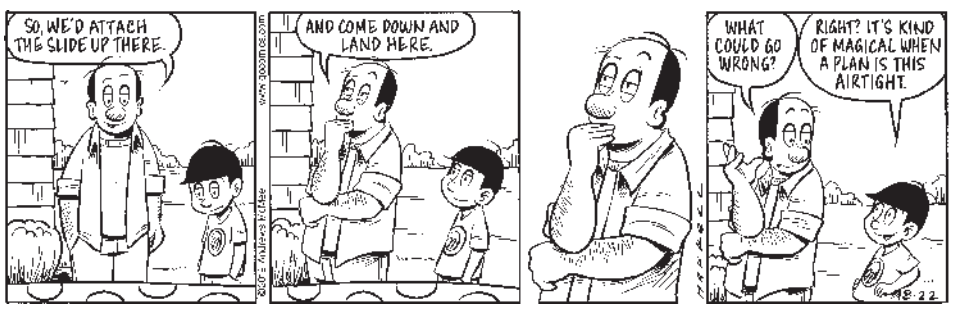
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, WE'D ATTACH THE SLIDE UP THERE.
AND COME DOWN AND LAND HERE.
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?
RIGHT? IT'S KIND OF MAGICAL WHEN A PLAN IS THIS AIRTIGHT.
8-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I THINK I NEED TO WORK ON BROODING. WOMEN GO FOR GUYS FULL OF MYSTERY.
DO YOU EVER FIND ME MYSTERIOUS?
WELL, I DO WONDER WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING THE POP-TARTS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ump
4 Office note
8 Waikiki's island
12 Coach Parseghian
13 Out of control
14 Corp. VIP
15 Spanish city where the bulls run
17 Canal zones?
18 Equi-
19 Reception amenity
21 Story credit
24 Connections
25 Brit. record label
26 Dawn goddess
28 Painter of ballerinas
32 Antioxidant berry
34 At once
36 50-and-over org.
37 Vader's title
39 Chest protector
41 GPS suggestion
42 "Mayday!"
44 Provoked
46 Unwrap eagerly
50 Praise in verse
51 Pronto
52 Precious gems
56 Carousel, for one
57 North Sea feeder
58 Three, on a sundial
59 Org.
60 Bring up
61 Sound booster

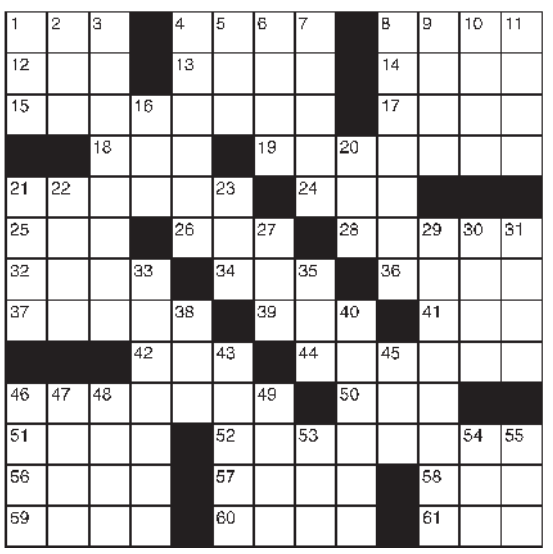
DOWN

1 Knock
2 Epoch
3 Recognizable
4 "Cheers" bar owner Sam
5 Comic Philips
6 Stereo alternative
7 Giraffe's kin
8 Pirate's place
9 Bedouin
10 Wife of Zeus
11 Cold War initials
16 Chi follower
20 Conclusion
21 Rosary component
22 Village People hit
23 A billion years
27 Cry
29 Fragrant flower
30 Jocular Johnson
31 Raced
33 "Come on in!"
35 Peruke
38 Short trip
40 Esiason of football
43 Passover repast
45 Big fuss
46 — avis
47 Egyptian deity
48 Cushions
49 Cleopatra's river
53 Lawyers' org.
54 Badly lit
55 Try the tea

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	A	B		T	O	O		H	O	G	S	
L	I	L		A	L	T	O		O	W	E	S
A	D	O		T	P	O	M	B	O	N	E	S
T	A	C	I	T			B	A	R			
			P	O	S	A		T	A	M	P	A
B	A	S	S	O	O	N	S		H	A	U	S
E	G	O		S	A	G	E	S		U	Z	I
S	U	D	S		F	I	C	C	O	L	O	S
S	A	S	F	A		O	S	H	A			
			A	D	A			I	F	A	L	L
B	A	S	S	D	R	U	M	S		C	O	E
A	B	E	I		I	H	A	M		I	H	A
M	E	I	A		E	_	I	S		D	E	N

Yesterday's answer 8-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Corden, 41; Kristen Wiig, 46; Ty Burrell, 52; Valerie Harper, 80.

Happy Birthday: You'll have to balance intelligence and emotions to prevent you from making a hasty choice that will take time to reverse. Slow down, smell the roses, enjoy the moment and double-check everything before you make a move. Precision and detail will lead to far greater success than winging it or trusting others to do their fair share. Your numbers are 7, 12, 21, 29, 34, 41, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Try something new. Explore the possibilities to see what you are capable of doing. Your only limitation is not believing in yourself. Speak up and share stories and experiences, and new friendships will develop. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Refuse to let your emotions interfere with what you are trying to accomplish. Set your course, and don't stop until you reach your goal. Physical action will make the difference between failure and success. Get up and get moving. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Think matters through before you decide to make a change that can alter your lifestyle or domestic routine. Question anyone who is offering incorrect information or suggestions. A joint venture may be tempting, but if it's not sound, take a pass.✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Participate, offer your services and make a difference to others. How you proceed and what you are willing to do will mark your character and position you for opportunities. Do what's in your heart, and positive change will occur. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pause before you share your thoughts. Someone will take credit for a plan you came up with. Don't be afraid to forge ahead alone. Trust in your instincts and your experience to help you bring your projects to fruition. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Business trips, educational pursuits and networking will lead to exciting opportunities. Do what you do best; show your talents, skills and dedication, and you will command attention as well as leave an unprecedented impression. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Taking a diplomatic, intelligent approach and making suggestions that are valid and will also benefit someone likely to cause a fuss will make whatever transition you are trying to achieve more inviting. Peace and love conquer force. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Make physical changes that will help you improve your game. What you do will have more of an impact on the way others respond to you and the offers you receive than talking about what you plan to do. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be careful how you use information that others reveal. You may be given false data, or someone may set you up to look bad. Listen, observe and wait to see what develops before you let others know where you stand. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You can move forward. Clear up unfinished business, and make room to build a new foundation for a better future. A chance to improve your financial status is within reach if you do the work required to forge ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Someone will play with your heart if you aren't careful. Walk away from unpredictable situations and people. Be smart, use diplomacy and protect what's yours. Ulterior motives, compliments and unwarranted generosity should raise red flags. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Change can be useful, but going overboard is not. If you want to do something, be reasonable, think your plans through and avoid overspending or overdoing. Stick to a safe, steady path forward. Know your boundaries and your limits. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are smart, dramatic and colorful. You are friendly and charismatic.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	8				
				3	1			
		8			5	7		
						2	7	
5							8	
3	9							
	3	2			4			
		1	5					
			8	9				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	1	4	3	2	9	8	5	6
9	8	2	6	5	7	4	1	3
3	6	5	1	4	8	7	9	2
8	5	1	7	3	2	9	6	4
4	3	6	5	9	1	2	7	8
2	7	9	4	8	6	1	3	5
5	9	7	8	6	4	3	2	1
6	2	8	9	1	3	5	4	7
1	4	3	2	7	5	6	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/22

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SPLISH-SPLASH SUMMER FUN — Solution: 7 letters

G	Y	G	E	S	N	O	L	E	M	R	E	T	A	W
N	A	N	A	S	E	I	T	I	V	I	T	C	A	E
I	L	I	F	L	O	A	T	I	E	S	E	T	M	A
M	P	H	T	E	W	H	F	B	S	O	E	L	I	T
M	O	S	D	N	S	N	A	T	N	R	D	E	N	H
I	O	I	P	I	A	T	R	A	P	F	P	V	I	E
W	L	F	N	A	H	A	C	A	R	A	I	A	G	R
S	D	N	E	I	R	F	R	U	M	S	C	R	O	E
L	E	C	N	Q	O	K	I	U	O	R	N	T	L	L
T	A	G	B	O	A	T	S	C	S	I	I	O	F	K
R	S	B	I	R	D	E	C	B	E	A	C	H	A	N
S	U	N	S	E	T	E	R	E	E	F	S	Y	R	I
E	E	B	S	I	R	F	E	R	U	T	A	N	M	R
B	I	K	E	R	I	D	E	T	I	K	I	D	S	P
E	D	A	R	A	P	N	E	E	R	C	S	N	U	S

© 2019 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 8/22

Activities, Amuse, Arts, Bathing, BBQ, Beach, Bike Ride, Boat, Canoe, Craft, Fairs, Farm, Fishing, Floaties, Friends, Frisbee, Fruit, Hose, Hot, Kayak, Kids, Kite, Mini Golf, Nature, Parade, Parks, Picnic, Play, Pool, Race, Reefs, Ribs, Road Trip, Slide, Soccer, Sprinkler, Sunscreen, Sunset, Swimming, Tans, Tennis, Travel, Watermelon, Water Park, Weather, Wet

Yesterday's Answer: Decaying

The NEW Volume 56 can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) SALES PERSON - $8.57 to 8.88 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles and parts, appliances, or apparel to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs. Recommend, select, and help locate or obtain merchandise based on customer needs and desires. Compute sales prices, total purchases, and receive and process cash or credit payment. Prepare merchandise for purchase or rental. Answer questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –Marianaslabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10. 65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(06) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) **Auto Technician** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(05) SERVICE TECHNICIAN- $10.58 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40hrs.a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, or pipelayers by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Measure, cut, thread and assemble new pipe, placing the assembled pipe in hangers or other supports. Cut or drill holes in walls or floors to accommodate the passage of pipes. Perform rough-ins, repair and replace fixtures and water heaters, and locate, repair, or remove leaking or broken pipes. Assist pipe fitters in the layout, assembly, and installation of piping for air, ammonia, gas, and water systems. Cut pipe and lift up to fitters. Fit or assist in fitting valves, couplings, or assemblies to tanks, pumps, or systems, using hand tools. Requisition tools and equipment, select type and size of the pipe, and collect and transport materials and equipment to work site. Mount brackets and hangers on walls and ceilings to hold pipes, and set sleeves or inserts to provide support for pipes. Excavate and grade ditches, and lay and join pipe for water and sewer service. Disassemble and remove the damaged or worn pipe.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(12) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9,02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Hardware Sales Associate
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge of business and management involve customer service, production methods, Knowledge in computer system. e.g data base, word, excel, rock solid, POS and other computer software. Familiar Hardware products. Good in oral comprehension, sales and marketing. 12 months work related experience with High School diploma. Salary: $8.57/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deductions all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Sat. 36 hr/week 6 hr/day.

Office Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge in Computer systems and Electronics such as peach tree, rock solid, microsoft excel, word, access, power point, data base and computer system. Knowledge of business management involve in strategic planning, human resources, leadership technique, production method. Good in customer and personal service. Ability in oral comprehension & expression and written comprehension. With Employment Certificate as office supervisor. Employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. Workers and CW-1 workers. At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Salary $12.41/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Fri. 36hr/week/7 hr /day.

Dept Hardware Sale Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Good in customer service, marketing expertise, good in computer e.g data base, rock solid system, excel, word, and other computer program, Familiar in hardware product, knowledge of business and management principle, leadership, production methods, Service oriented. Physically fit, Can able to drive. Knowledge in inventory system. Salary: $8.55-9.20/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. Frm: Mon-Sun 7 hrs a day(flexible time and day). 36 hrs /week.

Electrician
Qualification Requirements: At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Knowledge in all aspect of electrical .eg. installation, plan, lay out, repair, trouble shooting, inspect electrical or electronics system for defects. Good in computer system, data base, Microsoft excel, word, peach tree system, drafting. Knowledge in sales and marketing of electrical product. Good in customer service, with electrical license and diploma and with driver license. Salary: 9:60 hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. From: Mon-Sat 6 hrs. / day, 36 hrs. /week.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Knowledge in equipment maintenance, repairing, troubleshooting, equipment selection or determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. Physically fit, with valid drivers license. Must be at least 24 months work related experience with high school diploma. Salary: $8.11 to 9.00/hr. Monday to Friday, 36hr/week, 7 hrs/day. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opening intent to fill.

Accounting Associate
Atleast 24 months work related experience with High School Diploma, Proficient in microsoft software programs and accounting software such as quick book and peachtree. Knowledge on US generally accepted accounting principles. Comply with Federal State and company policies procedures and Regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payables procedures. Proficient in the English language (verbal, written and reading). Active listening, critical thinking. With Certificate of employment. The required employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. workers and CW workers. Salary: $9.87/hr. 36 hrs./week, 7 hrs./day. From Monday to Friday. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver
Required commercial driver license, physically fit with truck driver certificate. Knowledge in record operational or production data, record service or repair activities. Atleast 12 months work related experience with High School Diploma. Salary: $8.00/hr. /hr.36 hrs./week,6 hrs./day Monday to Saturday This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Auto Mechanics/Technician
At least 24 months working related experience with High School diploma. Knowledge in repairing, troubleshooting opertation and control, ability of critical thinking and judgement and decision making. Knowledge in sales and marketing of automotive items. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their design, uses, repair and maintenance. Knowledge in customer and personal service. Must have a updated drivers license, physically fit with auto mechanic certificate equal to both US worker and CW-1 worker. Salary: $8.02 to 8.30/hr, 36hr per week, 7 hrs./day. Monday to Friday. This job opportunity is temporary, full time position. There is one (1) job opening the employer to fill.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

WHATZIT Solution: Don Quixote

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance
& Repair Workers, General
$8.33/per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 235-2375
email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC
1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK
starting salary $13.87 to $19.00

Interested applicants,
pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - $9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavators, backhoes, compactors and bulldozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office at P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Civil Engineering Technician $14.18 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager. Calculate dimentions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimentional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum 24 months experience
- Civil Engineering license or equivalent

All interested applicants can send resume to:info@itscorporation.net Or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Marianas Medical Center

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following position:

(1) Accountant

Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice, or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others. Install or advise on systems of recording costs or other financial and budgetary data. Accounting requires certain hard skills, such as mathematics and expertise with accounting software. Accountants must be detail oriented, have strong analytical skills, and a facility with computer software such as spreadsheet programs to organize and report financial data.

(1) Registered Nurse (RN) – Full Time

The Registered Nurse (RN) demonstrate commitment to health care and patient care by supporting the clinic's providers with patient care by assessing patient health problems and needs, administer nursing care for patients. College graduate degree in Nursing from school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with 1 year of work experience as a Nurse of working in a similar capacity in a health care or medical setting. Must process US NCLEX-RN and is licensed as a RN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

All positions close 5:00pm on Friday, September 06, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Testing may be required for some positions. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer. The potential applicants/ may apply directly to MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC. Contacting us at (670) 234-3926 or through our email address Mondays through Fridays and is open between 8:00am to 5:00pm for all related recruitment process.

Visit us at www.saipantribune.com

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

DONKEY OT

WH-A7171 © 2019 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Arcwires Mr Wheel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Browns stars Mayfield, OBJ rip NY Giants

BEREA, Ohio (AP) —Maybe it's good the Browns and Giants won't play this season.

They're already trash-talking.

Comments by brash Cleveland quarterback Baker Mayfield and star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. created a stir at the training camps for both teams Tuesday, adding extra heat to brutally humid weather conditions.

Mayfield, the outspoken and uninhibited second-year QB, strangely took a swipe at the Giants and rookie quarterback Daniel Jones, the team's first-round pick this year and potential heir apparent to Eli Manning.

In an interview with GQ, Mayfield said he was stunned the Giants would draft someone such as Jones, who played at Duke and was not considered one of the top QBs in this year's class.

"Blows my mind," Mayfield told the magazine, adding he thinks NFL teams are flawed in their quarterback evaluation. "Some people overthink it. That's where people go wrong. They forget you've gotta win."

Mayfield's remarks were then presented to Jones, who was somewhat shocked by them because he doesn't know Cleveland's quarterback.

"I try not to listen to much that's said," Jones said. "I think I've done a pretty good job of that. I heard that before. I kind of have the same mindset, I certainly have a lot to focus on here, I have a lot to worry about here and I'm focused on that."

He doesn't have any background or known beef with Mayfield, which is why Jones was somewhat caught off guard.

"I have never spoken to him," said Jones, who went 17-19 in college. "He has an opinion. A lot of people have opinions."

While Mayfield's feelings may have rubbed some the wrong way, first-year Browns coach Freddie Kitchens was unfazed.

Kitchens dismissed the idea that anything Mayfield says or does will make the Browns, who have huge expectations after a 7-8-1 season and the arrival of Beckham, any more of a target.

AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield, top, is sacked by Kansas City Chiefs strong safety Jordan Lucas during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, in Cleveland.

"We don't care, all right?" Kitchens said, when asked if the bull's-eye on the Browns had grown. "It is already on there so it does not matter. We will be ready to play. I do not know what a 'bull's-eye' is," he said. "I do not know what that is. Does anybody know? Does anybody know what a bull's-eye is? If they are not trying to beat our ass and we are not trying to beat their ass, I do not know what else you do.

"That is what we are going to try and do, and hopefully, they try and do the same."

Following practice, Mayfield posted on Instagram that his comments about Jones were taken out of context.

"This is not what I said ... just so we're clear," Mayfield wrote. "I also said I was surprised I got drafted number one. Then was talking about the flaws in evaluating QBs. Where I brought up winning being important. Reporters and media will do anything to come up with a clickbait story. Heard nothing but good things and wish nothing but the best for Daniel."

The former No. 1 overall pick is scheduled to meet with reporters Wednesday.

As for Beckham, he can't seem to shake the Giants despite insisting he has moved on from his drama-filled days with them.

In a Sports Illustrated cover story, the three-time Pro Bowler said New York turned down better trade offers to send him to Cleveland in March. The Browns acquired Beckham and defensive end Olivier Vernon for guard Kevin Zeitler, safety Jabrill Peppers and first- and third-round picks.

"This wasn't no business move," he told SI. "This was personal. They thought they'd send me here to die."

Shurmur, who spent part of last season sparring with Beckham or dealing with the endless theater that seems to follow him, chose not to engage any further with his former player.

"Quite frankly on our list of issues of the day it really doesn't matter what Odell or Baker says," Shurmur said. "There are many other things we probably should be discussing. Again, we wish him (Beckham) well and it was a trade. We said that all along, I said I would not comment on what he says about the situation."

Beckham has acknowledged struggling in the weeks after the deal. He skipped almost all of Cleveland's offseason program but he's been adamant that he's adjusted to his new team and city.

Kitchens believes Beckham.

"No doubt. When he came back, he was all in—exactly what he promised me he would do," Kitchens said. "I trust him. He trusts me. I will not betray him. I do not think he will betray me."

MLS awards expansion franchise to St. Louis for 2022 debut

MISSOURI (AP) — The prospects of a Major League Soccer franchise ever calling St. Louis home appeared to have died two years ago when voters turned down the use of a business tax to finance a new downtown stadium.

Then a new potential ownership group came along.

Led by members of the founding family of car rental giant Enterprise, the city began to work anew last fall on its pitch for a professional soccer team. On Tuesday, the league officially announced that St. Louis would become its 28th club when it begins play for the 2022 season.

"Our ownership group has come a long way since we first announced our bid last October at Mathews-Dickey Boys and Girls Club, and it's an incredible feeling to now be able to say, 'St. Louis is home to the first official majority female-led ownership group in MLS,'" said Carolyn Kindle Betz, granddaughter of Enterprise founder Jack Taylor and the president of Enterprise Holdings Foundation.

"Our MLS team and stadium will only add to St. Louis' renaissance currently under way," Kindle Betz said, "and will provide us with a great opportunity to bring together many different segments of the community, uniting people in their love for the game."

Six other female members of the Taylor are part of the ownership group, along with businessmen Andy Taylor and Jim Kavanaugh, a soccer insider who was part of the first failed ownership team.

The new soccer stadium, which is planned for Market Street just west of Union Station, will be the centerpiece of a major development project in the city's Downtown West district. It will include mixed-used retail, restaurants and gathering spaces open year-round to the public, and is expected to continue a downtown revitalization effort that includes Busch Stadium—home of the St. Louis Cardinals—and the Enterprise Center, the home of the Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues.

As proof the city is all-in on the project, the St. Louis Board of Alderman easily approved a resolution last November to provide tax exemptions and other incentives to help with the construction.

"St. Louis is a city with a rich soccer tradition," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said, "and it is a market we have considered since the league's inception. Our league becomes stronger with the addition of the city's deeply dedicated soccer fans and the committed and innovative local ownership group."

St. Louis has long been a hotbed for youth soccer. In 1950, five immigrants from "The Hill" neighborhood helped the U.S. upset England in the World Cup. Saint Louis University has won 10 national titles in men's soccer, and the Hermann Trophy given to the top college player in the country is awarded annually at the Missouri Athletic Club.

The U.S. women's national team drew more than 35,000 fans to exhibition games at Busch Stadium in preparation for the 2015 and 2019 World Cups, and 43,000 fans packed the stadium to watch the U.S. men beat St. Vincent and the Grenadines in a World Cup qualifier in 2015.

The men's national team has a friendly against Uruguay scheduled for Sept. 10 at Busch Stadium.

"St. Louis has always been and will continue to be one of the great historic soccer cities throughout the United States," Garber said at a news conference attended by Blues legends Bernie Federko and Chris Pronger and Cardinals star Ozzie Smith. "After two decades of discussions about St. Louis being a part of our league, today the moment has arrived."

The new St. Louis franchise continues explosive growth for MLS that has seen 15 new clubs join the league since 2005. That includes a handful that have recently been awarded: FC Cincinnati is playing its inaugural season this year, David Beckham's Inter Miami FC and Nashville SC will begin play next season, Austin FC begins play in 2021 and the St. Louis club will follow the next year.

Its location also means a more natural rival for cross-state Sporting Kansas City and the Chicago Fire—just think of the rivalry that already exists between the Cubs and Cardinals.

"For the last two decades as a player and as a commentator for ESPN, I've seen this league grow in the United States and Canada," said Taylor Twellman, who grew up in St. Louis and played in MLS before becoming an ESPN broadcaster. "Few of us thought it would reach this point. But the community, the fans, that recipe is why we're in St. Louis today."

Mets open key homestand with win over Indians

AP

New York Mets relief pitcher Paul Sewald delivers to strike out Cleveland Indians' Tyler Naquin during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Conforto hit a tiebreaking homer moments after an embarrassing error by Cleveland Indians left fielder Oscar Mercado, and the resurgent New York Mets rolled from there to a 9-2 victory Tuesday night.

J.D. Davis also went deep and Steven Matz (8-7) permitted only one earned run in 6 1/3 innings as the Mets opened a critical homestand against a trio of playoff contenders with a resounding performance. New York (65-60), which began the day two games out of a wild-card spot, improved to 25-10 since the All-Star break and matched a season best at five games over .500.

Pete Alonso hit a two-run double to cap a four-run seventh that broke it open.

All-Star Game MVP Shane Bieber (12-6) gave up four runs—two earned—and four hits in six innings for the Indians.

Jason Kipnis homered early and hit an RBI single for the Indians, but their first trip to Queens since 2004 was a flop. Cleveland split a four-game series at Yankee Stadium last weekend to begin an eight-day stay in New York City.

Phillies 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Aaron Nola pitched seven innings of four-hit ball to win for the sixth time in his last seven decisions, getting three runs of support in the first inning as Philadelphia cruised past the Red Sox.

Three of the first four Philadelphia batters reached base, including back-to-back doubles by Bryce Harper and Jean Segura. Boston made it 3-2 on Jackie Bradley Jr.'s homer in the third but managed just four more hits the rest of the game.

Nola (12-3) allowed two runs and one walk while striking out seven. Hector Neris earned his 22nd save.

Red Sox starter Brian Johnson (1-2) allowed three runs, six hits and two walks, striking out four in 3 2/3 innings as Boston ended a five-game winning streak.

Orioles 4, Royals 1

In Baltimore, Hanser Alberto hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth, and the Orioles ended an eight-game losing streak.

Royals reliever Jacob Barnes (1-2) sandwiched a pair of walks around two outs before Alberto hit a 1-1 pitch into the Baltimore bullpen for his eighth home run.

Hunter Harvey (1-0) worked a perfect eighth to earn his first major league win and Mychal Givens got three outs for his 10th save.

Baltimore had lost 13 of its previous 14 games.

Kansas City's lone run came in the second inning, when Meibrys Viloria hit a sacrifice fly following singles by Alex Gordon and Ryan O'Hearn.

Angels 5, Rangers 1, 1st Game
Rangers 3, Angels 2, 11 innings

In Arlington, Delino DeShields raced home from second with the winning run in the 11th inning, giving the Texas a doubleheader split with Los Angeles after an error by first baseman Albert Pujols.

Nick Solak, who hit his first career homer earlier in the game after making his big league debut in the opener, hit a hard two-out shot that got past Pujols.

DeShields reached on a one-out single off Ty Buttrey (6-6). He stole second base after Rougned Odor struck out before Logan Forsythe walked to bring up the rookie.

Emmanuel Clase (1-2) worked two perfect innings for his first major league victory. He was the fifth Texas pitcher.

Reds 3, Padres 2

In Cincinnati, Freddy Galvis hit a tie-breaking two-run homer in the sixth inning, and Aristides Aquino added an RBI single as the Reds beat San Diego.

Galvis, claimed off waivers from Toronto on August 12, followed Josh VanMeter's second hit of the game with an opposite-field drive to left. It was his second home run in two nights and career-high 21st of the season.

Sonny Gray struck out 10 batters in six innings, reaching double figures for the third time this season and seventh in his career. He won his third consecutive start and improved to 4-0 in his last five outings. Gray (9-6) gave up four hits and three walks.

Braves 5, Marlins 1

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman homered twice and drove in four runs, Dallas Keuchel kept working out of trouble and the Braves defeated Miami.

Freeman sent one went the opposite way in the fourth. The next inning, the Braves slugger went deep again with two outs to break a 1-1 tie, launching a pitch from Tyler Kinley (1-1) into the right-field seats for his 33rd homer of the season and second multi-homer game of the homestand.

The third Miami pitcher, Austin Brice, didn't fare any better against Freeman, giving up a two-run single in the seventh.

Pirates 4, Nationals 1

In Pittsburgh, Starling Marte hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in eighth inning, and the Pirates beat Washington.

After struggling to manage anything off Stephen Strasburg through seven innings, Pittsburgh loaded the bases against Wander Suero (3-7) with nobody out in the eighth when Adam Frazier bunted a single past the mound. Bryan Reynolds tied it 1-1 with a sacrifice fly before Marte drove a fastball from Daniel Hudson 397 feet to right-center for his 22nd homer of the season.

Pirates closer Felipe Vázquez (3-1) went 1 1/3 inning, allowing one hit with one strikeout.

Cubs 5, Giants 3

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo homered twice and Cole Hamels pitched six innings for his first win in two months, helping Chicago top San Francisco.

Nicholas Castellanos also went deep as Chicago earned its third straight victory. Jonathan Lucroy contributed a key run-scoring single after the Cubs won a replay challenge.

Hamels (7-4) permitted three runs and five hits in his first win since June 12 at Colorado.

Austin Slater hit a two-run homer and Kevin Pillar added a solo drive for the Giants, who fell to 3-2 on their nine-game trip.

Fernando Abad (0-1) took the loss.

Mariners 7, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Tom Murphy hit a tiebreaking homer, his sixth in four games, in the sixth inning to lift Seattle over Tampa Bay.

Murphy's 16th homer of the season came off Jalen Beeks (5-3) after a walk to Kyle Seager. Murphy became the first Mariners catcher to homer in four straight games.

The Rays began the day one game ahead of Oakland for the AL's second wild card. The Athletics hosted the New York Yankees later.

Tommy Milone (3-7) got the win after giving up four runs in five innings of relief, helping Seattle to its sixth victory in eight games. Matt Magill pitched the ninth for his second save in two tries.

Twins 14, White Sox 4

In Minneapolis, Nelson Cruz homered and drove in three runs on four hits in his second game back from a wrist injury as the Twins beat Chicago.

Max Kepler hit a two-run homer to stay one ahead of Cruz for the team lead, starting pitcher Michael Pineda (9-5) stayed strong for seven innings, and the Twins raised their lead on Cleveland in the AL Central race to three games.

Cruz hit a career-high three doubles and became the first Twins player since Michael Cuddyer in 2005 with four extra-base hits in a game.

Jose Abreu had a two-run homer after Tim Anderson's RBI double for a 3-0 lead in the third.

Astros 6, Tigers 3

In Houston, George Springer, Jose Altuve and Martín Maldonado homered to lead Houston over Detroit.

The Astros jumped on Spencer Turnbull (3-12) for six hits and five runs in three innings as he lost his eighth straight decision to remain winless since May 31.

Houston starter Aaron Sanchez didn't get out of the third inning. He allowed four hits and three runs with two walks in a season-low 2 1/3 innings in his fourth start since a trade from Toronto.

Brad Peacock (7-6) took over for Sanchez and struck out three in 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Roberto Osuna collected his 29th save in 34 opportunities with a perfect ninth.

Cardinals 9, Brewers 4

In St. Louis, Dexter Fowler hit a bases-loaded double and drove in four runs, leading the Cardinals past Milwaukee.

Tyler Webb (1-1) earned his first major-league victory with one-third inning of work in his 79th career game. He struck out pinch-hitter Ben Gamel.

The Cardinals have won nine of their last 11 games, while the Brewers have lost six of their last eight. St. Louis remained in first place by a half-game over the Chicago Cubs, who beat San Francisco 5-3. Third-place Milwaukee is four games back.

St. Louis broke the game open with a four-run sixth against three Milwaukee relievers. Jeremy Jeffress (3-4) loaded the bases. Alex Claudio came in and struck out Kolten Wong. Junior Guerra entered and walked Harrison Bader, who was recalled earlier in the day.

Dodgers 16, Blue Jays 3

In Los Angeles, As good as he felt last week in Miami striking out 10 in seven scoreless innings, Clayton Kershaw felt equally as bad back home at Dodger Stadium.

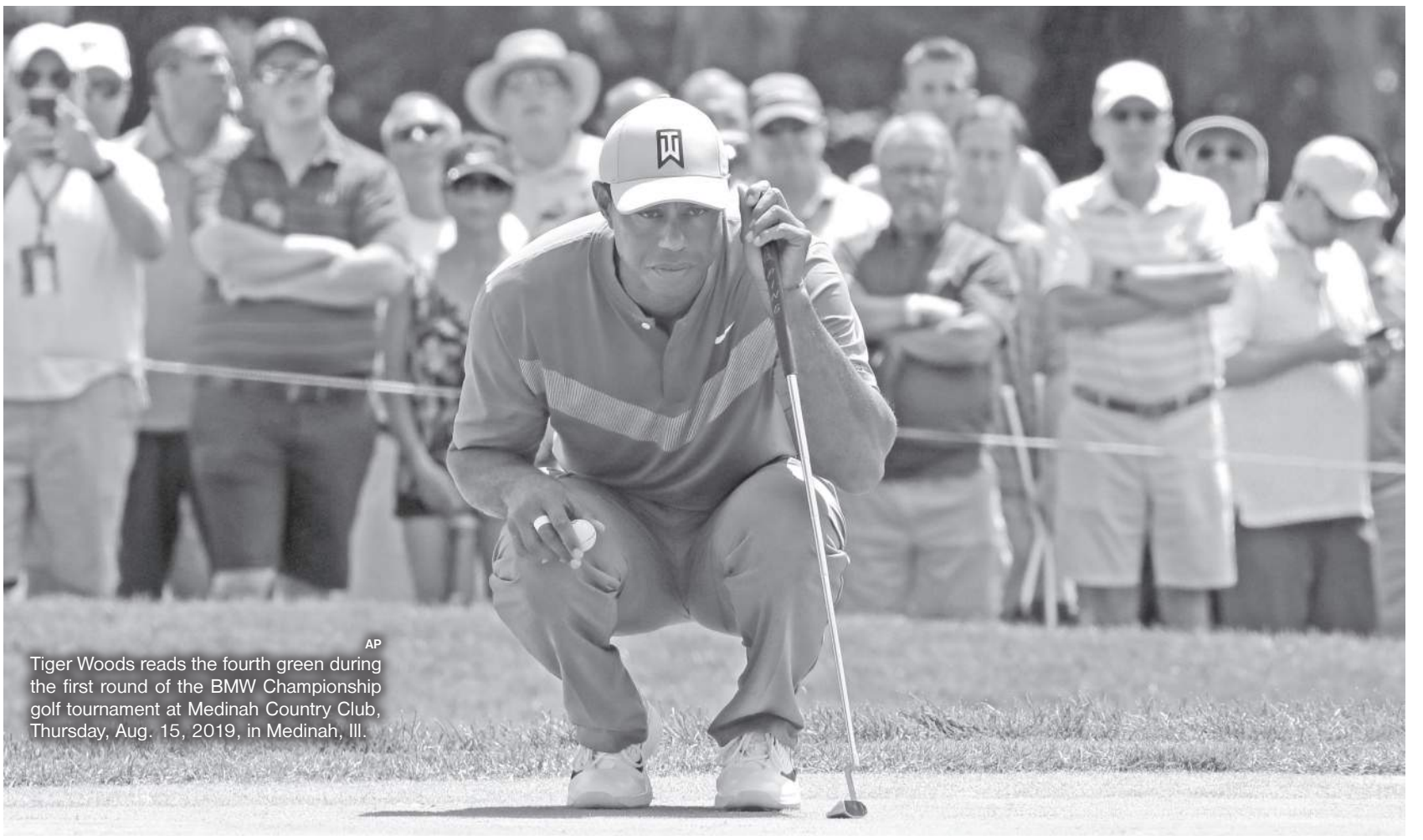
"It's a humbling game," the Dodgers ace said.

Still, Kershaw navigated his way through six innings to pass Sandy Koufax for most wins by a Dodgers left-hander and Los Angeles routed the Toronto Blue Jays.

"It's special," said Kershaw, who at the same time is loath to consider the big picture when it comes to his career achievements. "All the historical stuff is for me to look back on when I retire. I'm not too focused on that, but try not to take it for granted."

Kershaw (13-2) earned his 166th career victory, breaking a tie with Koufax for fifth on the club's wins list. He allowed three runs and six hits—including two homers by rookie sensation Bo Bichette. He struck out six and walked three.

Woods may play for Presidents Cup team



AP
Tiger Woods reads the fourth green during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Medinah, Ill.

ILLINOIS—The U.S. has lost just once in 12 editions of the Presidents Cup.

Tiger Woods played on that losing squad.

It was in 1998, at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia, when an unprepared U.S. team got shellacked, 20½-11½.

"Quite frankly, some of the guys didn't play or practice that much," Woods said. "It was our offseason, and we got beat pretty badly."

Woods is making sure that won't happen again. As the captain of this year's team that will head to Royal Melbourne in December for the 13th Presidents Cup, Woods has already pressed his team to play during the fall schedule of the upcoming 2019-20 wraparound season to be sharp when the matches roll along.

Woods pressed this point when he gathered 18 of the top 20 in the points race for a meeting at Liberty National during the Northern Trust, the first event of the FedEx Cup Playoffs.

"One-hundred percent," Woods said during a conference call Monday when asked if he'll urge his troops to play enough in the fall to be ready. "We talked about that, how important it is to be committed to the team and to the event and to each other, and that means playing and being prepared.

"It is important to be solid, be fresh, and to be sharp because we're going overseas and we're playing against an amazing team. These guys are going to be tough to beat. So we're looking forward to the challenge."

There are 11 PGA Tour events, plus Woods' Hero World Challenge leading into the Presidents Cup, starting with the season opener Sept. 12-15 in the Military Tribute at the Greenbrier.

Woods' season ended Sunday at the BMW Championship near Chicago when he failed to qualify for this week's season-ending Tour Championship in Atlanta, which he won last year. It was a disappointing conclusion to a season highlighted by his stunning victory in the Masters.

Woods is scheduled to play in two of the events leading to the Presidents Cup – the Hero in the Bahamas and the Zozo Championship on Oct. 24-27 in Japan. He's also planning on playing a lot of matches at his home course, the Medalist in Florida, against many members of his team.

Woods still could select himself as one of the four discretionary picks he'll be making in November. He'll determine if he sees enough from himself during practice, matches against members of the team and his play in the Zozo.

And he said he won't be pressured—not by the PGA Tour or TV executives—to pick himself.

"My job as the captain is to put together the best team possible and try and put together the best 12 guys," he said. "We'll be going through the whole process of having open communication with our top eight guys and my vice captains. That is something that we will certainly talk about, whether I should play or not play.

"Ultimately, it's going to be my call whether I do play or not as the captain. But I want to have all of their opinions before that decision is made."

The Top 8 were determined at the conclusion of the BMW Championship, led by world No. 1 Brooks Koepka. He's joined for now by Dustin Johnson, BMW champion Justin Thomas, Xander Schauffele, Matt Kuchar, Webb Simpson, Patrick Cantlay and Bryson DeChambeau.

All are ranked in the Top 19. Cantlay, Schauffele and DeChambeau will be playing in their first Presidents Cup.

"It's an amazing team of younger guys," Woods said. "The team is pretty fired up about playing in Australia. It's everything you could dream of, having an opportunity to be the captain of this great young team, and it's something that I'm thoroughly looking forward to, and I can't wait until December."

PGA Tour not rushing action on slow play

ATLANTA—The PGA Tour is in no rush.

And it shouldn't be.

Despite the European Tour announcing Monday a four-point plan beginning next season to improve pace of play including reduced field sizes, stiffer penalties and larger fines, PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said his organization won't be influenced by its counterpart.

Monahan, in a gathering with members of the media Tuesday morning at East Lake Golf Club, said the Tour is on the right path toward resolving any issues regarding pace of play.

He feels everyone's pain, he has seen the ire on social media and heard from the mouths of top players after recent episodes of excruciatingly dawdling play. He's just not going to lead a sprint to any resolutions.

"We've been working on this, and we can be criticized for taking too long," Monahan said to a few chuckles from the listeners.

"But there's been more than 1.2 million shots hit this year, and we're talking about a few instances - and granted, they're instances that are extreme - and we're going to go down a path and we're going to address that," he added. "And I feel really good about where we're going to get to, but it takes longer than you want, and you can't be overly reactionary.

"I tend to have a fair amount of urgency around everything I do, and sometimes you can't execute the urgency you want. You have to stay on the path you're on."

"I feel really good about where we're going to get to, but it takes longer than you want, and you can't be overly reactionary," PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan says.

So far, that path has included numerous meetings with the Player Advisory Council and the Policy Board. More meetings are forthcoming.

And nine changes have been made to the Tour's Pace of Play Policy since 1994. In addition, and to little fanfare, field sizes have been reduced. Tournaments opposite the WGCs have gone from 132 to 120 players, and the Genesis Open, the tournament Tiger Woods hosts at Riviera Country Club north of Los Angeles, went from 156 to 120 players.

Beginning next season the cut will bring the field down to the top 65 and ties instead of the top 70 and ties.

And if anyone noticed, there wasn't a whiff of slow-play problems at last week's BMW Championship, where threesomes on three of the four days played in roughly 4 hours, 40 minutes.

Monahan also has teams at PGA Tour headquarters in Florida analyzing ShotLink data on every shot hit on the Tour since 2003, looking for ways to possibly improve the pace of play.

Just as important, Monahan knows the pace of play has been an issue basically since the first feathery golf balls were hit hundreds of years ago. He knows this issue can harm the product. But speed is not of the essence when tackling this matter. The turtle's pace is more prudent than that of the hare.

And Monahan's right. Get it right instead of getting it right now.

"I wouldn't say we're going to be influenced in any way," by the European Tour's freshly minted directive, Monahan said. "I think everybody looking at this, talking about it is a good thing, and they've obviously decided that that's the right thing for the European Tour. And when we're ready to talk about what we're going to do, I'll be excited to talk to all of you about it."

Meanwhile, The European Tour has that starting in the 2020 season, players will be handed a one-shot penalty if they breach time allowances twice in a round. The tour says there will be "significantly increased fines" for players who are on the clock.

Players will have to pass an interactive test on pace-of-play rules as part of their conditions of membership.

A pace-of-play timing system will be tested at next month's BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth, the European Tour's flagship event, including on-tee displays showing players their position in relation to the group in front.

Field sizes at events also will be reduced from 156 to a minimum of 144 to give referees better space to monitor groups over the first two rounds. Larger starting intervals will be built into play on weekend rounds to create a better flow between groups.

Keith Pelley, the tour's chief executive, says the new proposals "will bring about meaningful change that will make golf even more enjoyable for the players and our fans."

In other news, Monahan didn't think twice when President Donald Trump invited him to play golf last Saturday.

It was the second time they have played since Trump has been in office.

"I'm concerned about criticism for everything that I do," Monahan said Tuesday. "But in this instance ... listen, like I said, he has been a great supporter of the Presidents Cup. He loves our game. He's got a relationship with a lot of our players. And to me, I'm not there for political reasons. I'm there to support him. He's asked me to be there and be there along with other peers in our industry. It's a chance for us to spend some time together and have a wonderful time."

They played a match at Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey, where the 2022 PGA Championship will be held.

Rollers vs Ol'Aces in U16 finals

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rollers and Ol'Aces will face off in the finals of the U16 division of the Pacific Amusement/NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament after cruising through their respective semifinal matches last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Rollers outclassed the Sonics, 45-23, while the Ol'Aces also won by a blowout against Tinian, 48-32.

Ervin Villarin powered the Rollers past the Sonics in the semis after scoring 15 points, while Jayart Palmes and Anthony Lajara provided help, adding 9 and 8 markers, respectively.

Clinging to a 19-18 lead at the halftime break, the Rollers managed to pull away in the second half, thanks to Laraja's three triples. Villarin and Steve King also contributed in the second-half assault after recording 7 points apiece.

The Sonics made only two baskets in the second half, allowing the Rollers to cruise to victory. Earlier in the first half, the Sonics managed to remain afloat with Raven Francisco, Aldraine Galang, and Nathan Guanzing teaming up for 12 points.

Meanwhile, in the other semis game, the Ol'Aces triumphed against Tinian with Greg Deleon Gurerrero delivering the goods for the winning team after registering 16 points. Craig Babauta chipped in 9 points.

Leo Epity had 15 points for Tinian, which got 6 markers from Ricky Cruz and 5 from Isaiah Aldan in the visiting team's failed bid to advance to the finals in the U16 age group.

The Rollers and Ol'Aces will dispute the division championship this Saturday.

In the U14 division, it will also be the Ol'Aces versus Rollers.

The Ol'Aces automatically entered the title game after finishing first in the preliminary round, while Rollers defeated Tinian in the battle for the second finals ticket, 54-36.

Merrick Toves anchored the Rollers to the semis win after scoring 20 points, while Freddy Pelisamen contributed 14 points.

George Lizama delivered 13 points for Tinian, while Wade Santos logged 6.

First Game
U16 Division

Rollers 45—Villarin 15, Palmes 9, Lajara 8, King 7, Atalig 6, Tudela 2, Cruz 2.

Sonics 23—Rizo 7, Francisco 4, Galang 3, Guanzing 3, Kim 2, Bernardo 2, Sapipi 2.

Scoring by halves: 19-18, 45-23

Second Game

Ol'Aces 48—Deleon Guerrero 16, Craig 9, Thrino 5, Jestin 4, Darryl 3, John 3, Airson 2.

Tinian 32—Epity 15, Cruz 6, Aldan 5, Paulio 5.

Scoring by halves: 18-12, 48-32

U14 Division

Rollers 54—Toves 20, Pelisamen 14, Macaranas 8, Naraja 4, Piaz 3, Eugenio 2, Gotto 2, Samson 1.

Tinian 36 —Lizama 13, Santos 6, King 4, C. DelaCruz 2, Nabors 2, Cruz 2, P. Dela Cruz 1.

Lue joining Clippers coaching staff

CALIFORNIA—The Los Angeles Clippers are bringing in another big name this offseason.

Tyronn Lue, who won the 2016 NBA title and guided the Cleveland Cavaliers to two other Finals appearances, is joining Doc Rivers' coaching staff as lead assistant, according to multiple reports. The Athletic's Shams Charania was the first to report the agreement.

The New York Times' Marc Stein reported last week the Clippers were "closing in" on the former head coach, and an agreement was seemingly reached Tuesday.

Lue previously served as an assistant for Rivers from 2011-2014 with both the Boston Celtics and Clippers. Lue also played for Rivers in part of one season, in 2003-04 with the Orlando Magic.

Besides being a title winner in his own right, the Clippers adding Lue is interesting for what happened earlier this year: his failure to reach an agreement with the in-arena rival Los Angeles Lakers—with whom Lue won two championships as a player—to become head coach after once being at the "forefront" of their search. The Lakers eventually hired former Magic and Indiana Pacers coach Frank Vogel; Jason Kidd, former NBA All-Star and coach of the Brooklyn Nets and Milwaukee Bucks, will be one of Vogel's assistants.

AP

The then Cleveland Cavaliers head coach Tyrone Lue signals a play during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game against the Detroit Pistons, Friday, Oct. 12, 2018, in East Lansing, Mich.

In parts of four seasons with the Cavs, Lue went 128-83 and—behind LeBron James —the team went to the NBA Finals from 2016-2018, winning that first appearance in their stunning 3-1 comeback against the Golden State Warriors. Despite his status as the first coach to lead the Cavaliers to a championship, and despite James leaving for the Lakers in the offseason, Lue was fired after an 0-6 start in 2018-19.

The addition of Lue is just the latest storyline in what is shaping up to be an eventful season for the two Los Angeles teams. The Clippers added California natives Kawhi Leonard (in free agency fresh off a second Finals MVP) and Paul George (via a stunning trade with the Oklahoma City Thunder), while the Lakers added another star alongside James by acquiring Anthony Davis in a big swap with the New Orleans Pelicans.

All eyes will be on Staples Center in 2019-20.

Desperate measures for Lakers

The fallout for the Lakers from DeMarcus Cousins' ACL tear is coming into focus in Los Angeles. And it's not pretty.

Aside from the obvious basketball tragedy that is Cousins' now injury-riddled career is the challenge the Lakers face trying to replace him. With the prime NBA free agency period long over, the answer for the Lakers is to resort to desperate measures.

Those measures include auditioning a cast of NBA centers whose games and ages are relevant for basketball in 2009, not 2019.

According to reports, in addition to Dwight Howard, the Lakers are considering signing Joakim Noah, Marcin Gortat and Marreese Speights.

Howard, Noah and Speights all have scheduled workouts, while Gortat may audition with the team after returning from Europe, according to the report.

Speights, 32, is the youngest of the bunch and the only one to hit more than six three pointers over the course of his NBA career, having evolved to become a somewhat reliable shooter for a big man with a 35.6 career clip from 3-point distance.

23

From Page 28

Jeremiah Diaz, Joshua Deleon, Kohtaro Goto, Brian Lubao, and Skyler Poon, and forwards Kaden Church, Taka Borja, Oliver Fajardo, and Jim Maniago.

The team will play against the M-League All-Stars, Beijing Elite Core Football Club, and the Beijing 97 Return United Football Club in the inaugural tournament that will run from Aug. 24 to 26.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita will be the CNMI U18 squad's coach and the team will play its first game this Saturday against Beijing Elite at 4:30pm. Up next for the U18 crew is the M-League All-Stars as they square off on Sunday at 5pm, while the former's match versus Beijing 97 is set for Monday, also at 5pm.

Meanwhile, the two visiting teams are made up of players in the 20-and-above age group.

Beijing 97 Return United Football Club, which was founded in 2009, is bringing in 12 players for the three-day tournament and will be led by captain and forward Yifan Zhang. Hongpeng Li is the head coach, while Xiaoguang Qin and Huan Xu are the team manager and executive coach, respectively. The club has been competing in various tournaments around China.

Beijing Elite Core Football Club is a relatively new group, as it was just established last year and membership is by invitation not through public recruitment.

The club's founder and chief executive officer Zhenxing Wang will lead the 21-man delegation and he will also serve as team manager. Zhiliang Jiang will coach the visiting squad, which has two co-captains in Ye Xiao and Wenlong Yan.

ADA

From Page 28

the gym has been "condemned" as a result of multiple super typhoons that have wreaked havoc on the CNMI in the past few years. However, they have decided to do something about the facility, temporarily, to open it back up to the local community.

"Majority of events, like basketball and volleyball leagues happen here, but the place was kind of condemned. Again, it's going to take a while for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to get the funding and everything and get this going, so we decided to do something so we can start using the gym," he said.

Rangamar added that leagues have been scheduled for September and if anyone wants to book the Ada Gym for practices or leagues, organizers are free to contact him at 234-6672.

"Right now, we have something happening for basketball and volleyball. I think we have volleyball happening by September. Again, there are fees like $10 per hour for the usage and the lights," he said.

Aside from the Ada Gym repairs, temporary fix have also been made to the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacions Ballfield, while cleanup has been done for the track and field and both facilities are open for use.

"Right now, because of baseball, we kind of fixed the fence. Again, it is just temporary. Out there in the track and field, we already have people using it for rugby, soccer, and there's also frisbee. The track and field is also open to walkers. Right now, it is not track season but rugby is using it and even soccer. Track will probably start using it by December," Rangamar said.

As far as the $3 million allocation from FEMA for the repairs and improvement of the entire Oleai Sports Complex, Rangamar said that they are currently following it up with the concerned government agencies. Once available, they will start on permanent repairs and they are also waiting for reimbursement for the repairs they've paid for.

CONNIE'S

From Page 28

Gilas Batang fell behind further in the second canto, as it had no player hitting more than two field goals in that period. The struggle continued for the winless Gilas in the third quarter, as it was held to 13 points for the third time, allowing Connie's to enjoy the big lead despite a 12-marker output.

Gilas Batang then finally scored 20-plus points in the fourth frame (22), but that was not enough to bring the team back into the game, as Connie's just countered to walk away with the 14-point winning margin.

Cabang paced Connie's with his 19 points, while Dayao, Danao, and Camacho chipped in 13 apiece.

Alken Ege and Roy Hernandez had 13 points each for Gilas Batang, which dropped to a 0-5 record.

Meanwhile, IT&E Light earned its second win in three games after topping Max's Restaurant in the curtain-raiser, 92-69.

IT&E Light limited Max's to 11 points in the second quarter—the team's lowest production in the game—to turn a 23-17 cushion to a 44-28 halftime advantage. IT&E Light kept going in the second half, firing 20-plus points in each of last two periods to coast to victory.

Five ITE& players scored in double figures in their 23-point win with Aaron Pamintuan topping the list after making 15 points

First Game

IT&E Light 92—Pamintuan 15, De Guzman 14, Henry 13, Nuguid 13, Dayrit 12, Aglipay 6, Madreo 6, Gotengco 6, Jose 2.

Max's Restaurant 69—Lerio 17, Norita 12, Salalila 11, Paynor 8, Rotap 6, Tibayan 5, Herrera 4, Loyola 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-17, 44-28, 71-49, 92-69.

Second Game

Connie's BBQ 75—Cabang 19, Dayao 13, Danao 13, Camacho 13, Esmores 7, Bongalan 5, Rodriguez 3.

Gilas Batang 61—Ege 13, Hernandez 13, Acosta 8, Tibayan 6, De Jesus 6, Estores 4, Rosario 4.

Scoring by quarters: 27-14, 44-26, 56-39, 75-61.

Browns stars Mayfield, OBJ rip NY Giants

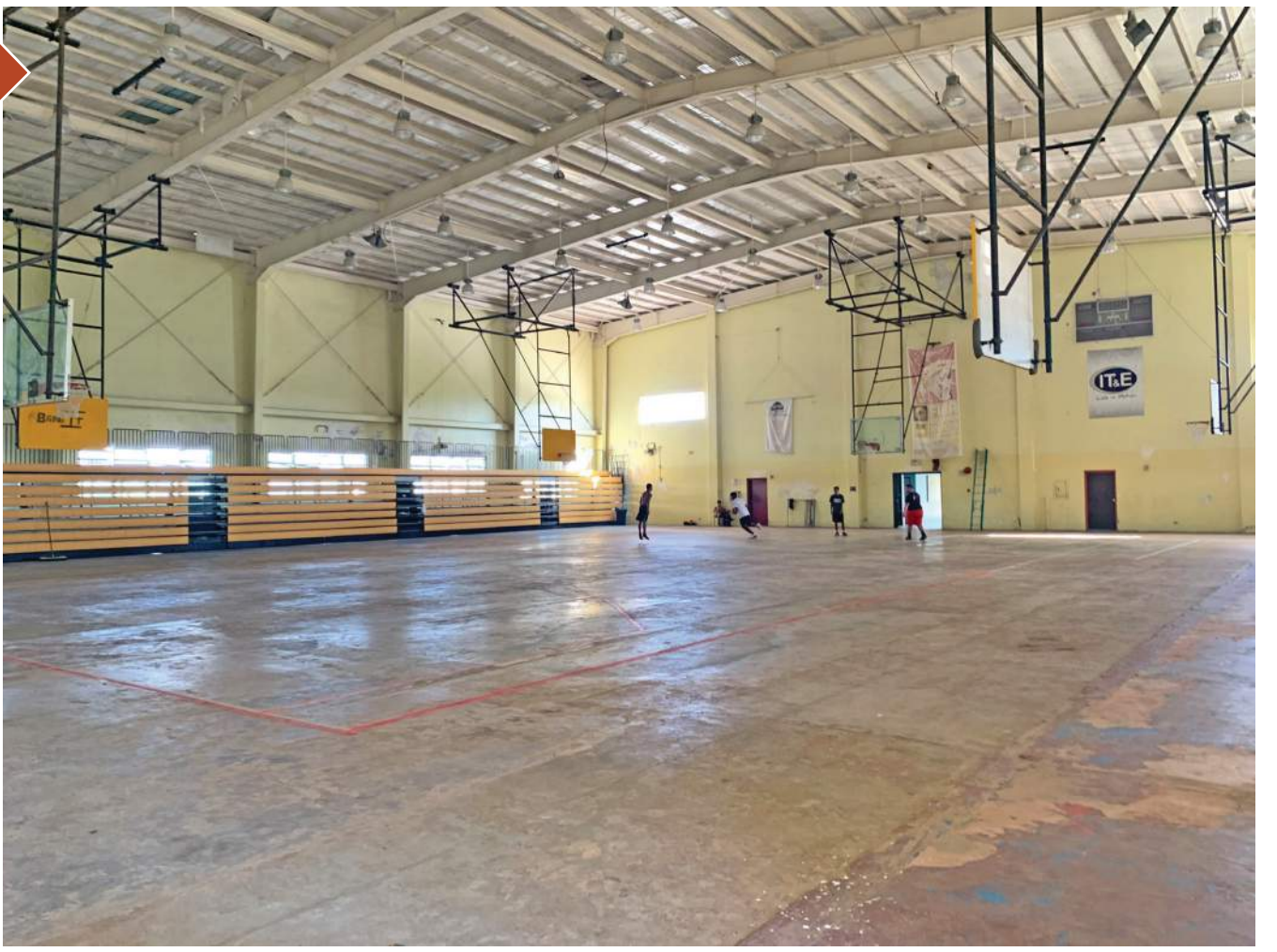
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mets open key homestand with win over Indians

PAGE 25

Ada Gym to reopen



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Players do some basketball drills at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday. The facility may open for basketball and volleyball matches next week.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium has undergone minor repairs and will soon reopen its doors to local leagues.

Oleai Sports Complex program coordinator Elias Rangamar said that their staff has been working tirelessly on minor repairs that would allow local basketball and volleyball leagues to utilize the facility as early as next week.

"We're hoping that we can open next week for leagues. We removed the stuff from the floor and water blasted it. We're going to start fixing the lights this afternoon and we're also going to paint the floor," Rangamar said.

Rangamar explained that

See ADA on Page 27

Connie's BBQ keeps win streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Connie's BBQ notched its fifth win in as many games in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League after easing past Gilas Batang, 75-61, last Tuesday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Connie's buckled down to work early to seize control of the match, as it opened a 14-point lead after the first period, 27-13. Joel Danao kicked thing off for Connie's, as he scored 6 of the squad's first 8 points, while Ronald Esmores, Austin Camacho, and Kerwin Dayao picked up where the former left off, making the team's last 15 markers. Dayao had 8 markers in that stretch, 6 of them came from the 3-point area, to hand Connie's BBQ the double-digit spread after the first canto.

Then in the second frame, a different player stepped up for Connie's with Nelson Cabang drilling 10 points to keep the unbeaten squad in front, 44-28.

See CONNIE'S on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Connie's BBQ's Austin Camacho, center, throws up a shot against Pardz's Mike Jose during an earlier game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

23 players named to CNMI U18 team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-three players have been selected for the CNMI Boys U18 National Team that will compete in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The group has the core of the U19 team that represented the Commonwealth in the 2019 Marianas Cup held in Guam last month. The roster also has several U15 players getting ready for an off-island tournament. Goalies Merrick Toves, Jason Quimzon, and John Bucayo are on the list, which also includes defenders Ronnel Ocanada, Eunsyu Hahn, Thaiphi Austria, Kirt Andon, Razeff Altamirano, Akira Kadokura, and Daniel Pablo, midfielders Sebastien Manabat, Joshua Waldo, John Michael Rojas,

See 23 on Page 27

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Sebastien Manabat, seen here working on the ball against a Guam defender during last month's 2019 Marianas Cup at the Guam Footballl Association National Training Center, will play in the CNMI U18 team that will compete in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.